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### Summer 2004

Merrimack College

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# MERRIMACK

SUMMER 2004

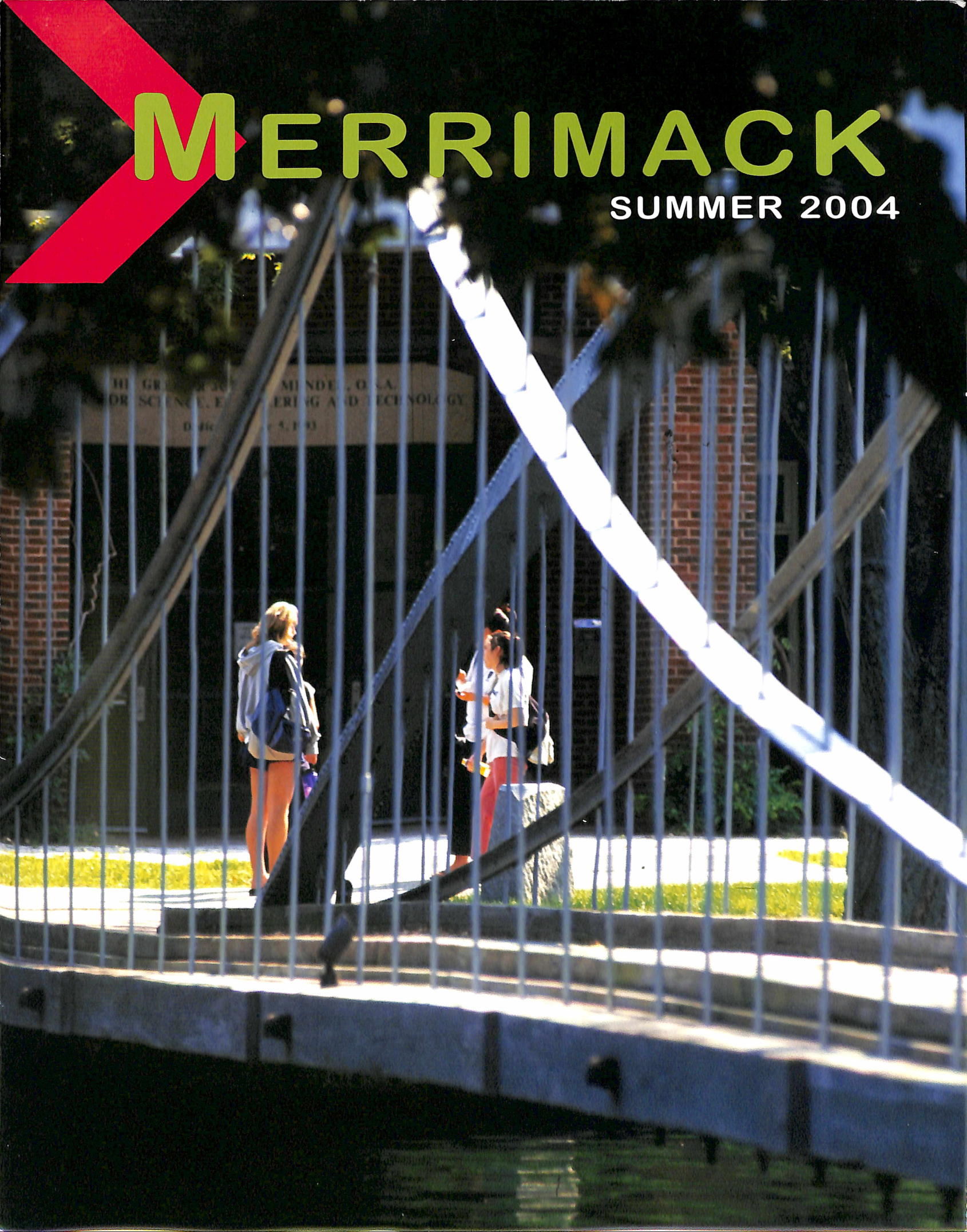




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MESSAGE  
FROM THE PRESIDENT



What makes Merrimack College distinctive? It is a question I am often asked by parents who have a son or daughter thinking about coming to Merrimack, and by corporations, foundations, and individuals who are contemplating supporting the college with gifts or grants. As alumni, you are probably often asked this question as well.

When answering, I share with them the college's core values and the key attributes that make Merrimack distinctive, and which powerfully connect students and others to us. I tell them that Merrimack is a college that empowers students to actively explore their interests and refine their strengths, to discover their vocation and spiritual calling, and to acquire the tools and skills to live a life of personal integrity, professional success and service to others.

One of our biggest strengths, as you know as a graduate, is that learning does not only happen in the classroom and the lab, but also in the field and in the real world. Our students are not simply learning spectators – but instead, are active participants in the pursuit of knowledge and essential skills. Our strong co-operative education and internship programs provide students with unparalleled opportunities to expand their learning environment and develop their careers long before they leave Merrimack.

The ultimate goal of a Merrimack education is to empower individuals to make a positive difference in the world, as I know many of you are doing. Our Augustinian heritage, with its emphasis on community life and caring for one another, opens the hearts and minds of our students to the enriching experience of community service.

The pursuit of knowledge and wisdom in mind and heart is the mission of Merrimack College, and the source of our commitment to learning, our focus on human engagement, and our service to the community.

As alumni, I hope you will carry our message forward. Please share Merrimack's strengths and distinctiveness, as well as your own experiences when you were here, with a young person you know who is beginning to explore his or her future educational choices. Excite a young person's mind about the possibilities that may await him or her.

*Richard J. Santagati*

Richard J. Santagati  
President

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Faculty-Student Relationships Enhance  
Science and Engineering Curriculum *By Kathleen Franzese*

Before Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering Russell Pinizzotto, Ph.D., on the job now for approximately six months, took the position at Merrimack, he carefully researched his subject as a good scientist would. He learned as much as he could about the college, and more importantly, about the faculty at Merrimack who would soon become his colleagues. He liked what he saw.

He was impressed with the breadth and depth of the research they were doing and he took note that the faculty represented a good cross section of educational and cultural experiences. What impressed him most, however, was what he believes is the strength of the division of science and engineering at Merrimack – the relationships between the faculty and their students.

"The significant mentoring, research and real-world training that occur among our faculty and our students is something that does not often happen at other institutions, especially larger public institutions," noted Pinizzotto, whose career includes stints at Northwest Missouri State University and the University of North Texas.

The relationships between faculty and students make possible myriad opportunities to apply classroom



Photo by Len Rubenstein  
*Close collaboration between faculty and students is a real strength of Merrimack's Division of Science and Engineering.*

learning and gain invaluable real-world experience that can be applied when they graduate. For example, current Merrimack students are engaged in environmental studies, such as with officials of North Reading, Mass. in studying Martin's Pond, and in transportation studies that recently explored the value of a new interchange off of Route 93 in Andover, Mass.

"This type of hands-on, intensive experience, coupled with the small number of students relative to the number of faculty we have at Merrimack,

really makes a difference to the quality of the education we provide. Our faculty know our students and vice versa," said Pinizzotto. At Merrimack he taught 27 students in his spring astronomy class, a far cry from the 130 he used to have in one class.

"Students are winning regional awards for the quality of their research, including one this semester from the American Chemistry Society and Sigma Xi, and are presenting papers at national conferences with their professors," he said. "This close collaboration between faculty and students is a real strength at Merrimack."

Faculty members in the Division of Science and Engineering are very active in the classroom, in the laboratory and in other programs. They publish and contribute to their fields of study and,

*"The significant mentoring, research and real-world training that occur among our faculty and our students is something that does not often happen at other institutions, especially larger public institutions."*

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## Science and Engineering

noted Pinizzotto, when on sabbatical they very often go to learn or work at prestigious locations. "They come back to campus energized about their fields, and excited to bring what they have experienced into the classroom to their students," he said.

In his short time at Merrimack, Pinizzotto has also noted what he believes to be another important dimension of the faculty. "The professors at Merrimack, and within the Division of Science and Engineering specifically, want to move forward. They have a desire to advance in many areas – pedagogically in their classrooms, in their research, and to move the college forward as a whole," he



Students and faculty work closely together.

Gregor Johann Mendel, O.S.A. Center for Science and Engineering (bottom)

said. "They are so interested in and excited about science and engineering that they just simply want to share it with others. They are good ambassadors for their fields and the college."

Many faculty in the science and engineering division, and indeed across the divisions, are also involved in community service and service learning initiatives. "Lots of people think that scientists and engineers are disconnected and aloof from society, but that is absolutely not true," says Pinizzotto. "Many of our faculty members are involved in community programs, such as the Lawrence Math and Science Partnership, which help our students grow strong personally as well as academically. Personal contributions to society are as important as the technical contributions that scientists and engineers can make."

### Looking to the future

As for the future of science, engineering, technology, and mathematics at Merrimack College, it is Pinizzotto's aim to increase the number of students who enroll to be science and engineering majors. He is

confident that as more students, and their parents, understand the many strengths of the division and of Merrimack College and the kind of student it graduates, perspective students will choose to pursue their degree at Merrimack.

In the future, he also hopes to form more partnerships with corporations and businesses. "The support of corporations, such as we currently receive from Merck for our summer undergraduate program and from YAS Corporation for our faculty and senior research projects, really makes a tremendous difference in the education of our students. Their support is crucial since it makes it possible for our students to engage in direct research and/or applications. We, in turn, can offer our corporate sponsors skilled interns, co-op interns, and future employees."

The division is working together to create a strategic plan and vision, in parallel with the college's strategic plan. "As a community of scientists, engineers, support staff, students and the many other individuals who make significant contributions to our division, we will accomplish a great deal when we are all trying to move in the same direction."

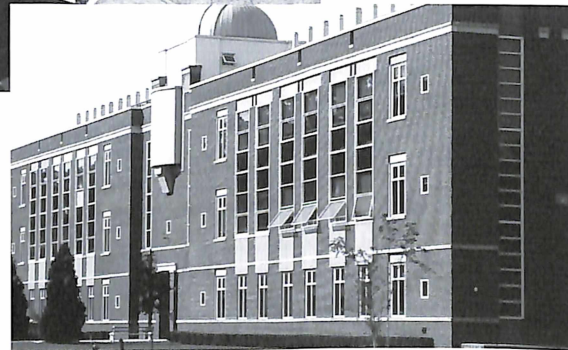


Photo by: Tom Rubenstein

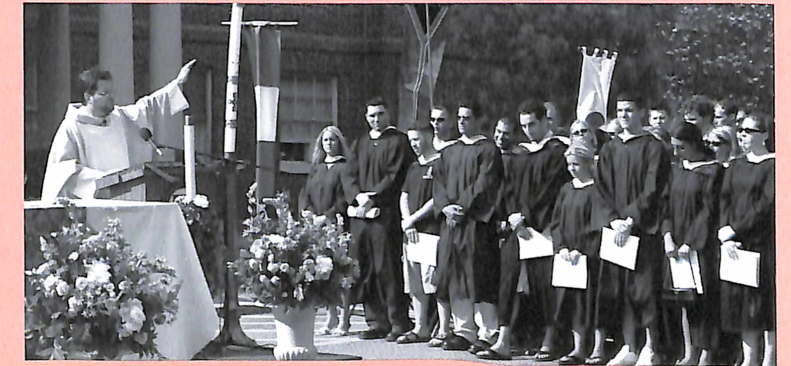
## COMMENCEMENT

# Commencement 2004 Celebrates Achievement of 515 Graduates

By Kathleen Franzese

Merrimack's 54th Commencement marked the graduation of 515 students representing four countries and more than 10 states. Four master's degrees were conferred and 42 Continuing Education students also received degrees during commencement.

President Richard J. Santagati congratulated the students on breaking new ground during their time at Merrimack and encouraged them to "continue to challenge yourself, to break new ground and to live a life full of learning experiences." He continued, "Let us break new ground toward peaceful coexistence and strive for a better understanding and brotherhood among all cultures – all religions – all peoples. Move forward from here – this place and this



Rev. Richard Piatt, O.S.A. blessed students at the Baccalaureate Mass held on Austin Plaza the day before Commencement.

time – to work for justice and peace – as so many Augustinians have done and continue to do."

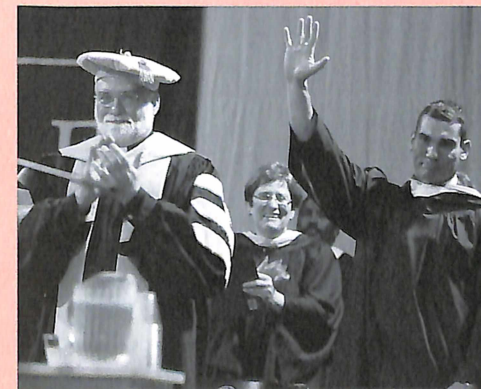
Novelist Andre Dubus III, who was the Commencement's speaker, received the degree of Doctorate of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*. Dubus is a writer and author of *House of Sand and Fog* (see related article in this section).

### Honorary Degree for Rev. Donald Burt, O.S.A.

Honorary degree recipient Rev. Donald X. Burt, O.S.A., who was unable to attend Commencement, received the Doctorate of Augustinian Education in absentia. His degree was accepted by the Honorable Michael J. Stella, Jr., J.D. '65 who was a student of Fr. Burt when he taught at Merrimack in the 1960s and 1970s.

A teacher for nearly 45 years, Fr. Burt served as both an administrator and professor at Merrimack College. He came to Merrimack in 1960, serving as chaplain for two years.

He then served as assistant to the president and ran the Financial Aid office until 1967. Fr. Burt left Merrimack for Villanova University where he served as dean of arts and science and associate professor of philosophy until 1974. He was professor of philosophy at Biscayne College in Miami, Florida for the following two years. He returned to Merrimack in 1974 as dean of humanities and also served as academic vice president and as professor of philosophy. From 1980 to 1982 he served as coordinator of personnel for the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova at Villanova University and



Panos Voulgaris (right, waving) received thunderous applause following his speech to fellow graduates.



Photos by David Barron

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## COMMENCEMENT

was professor of philosophy at Villanova until his retirement from teaching in 1999. Fr. Burt is now a professor emeritus at Villanova University.

He has served on the Board of Trustees of several schools and universities, including Villanova. Fr. Burt has published several scholarly articles and a dozen books, and is also known nationally for his lectures in business ethics and bioethics. His books provide valuable introductions to the philosophy and spirituality of St. Augustine.

### Finding Our Strengths and Sharing Them

The student speaker was Panos J. Voulgaris, a presidential scholar who received his bachelor of arts in history and political science. He quoted St. Augustine and said, "In essence, St. Augustine was telling us that if we are going to make the effort to look at all of the wonderful sights, we must also take the time to look into ourselves. It is our obligation to find our strengths, and once we find them, to share them with the community we live in. Merrimack has given us the opportunity to see great things and ask questions through a multitude of experiences . . . Whatever your experiences and opportunities have been, take them with you, and continue to look inside and share the best of what you find."

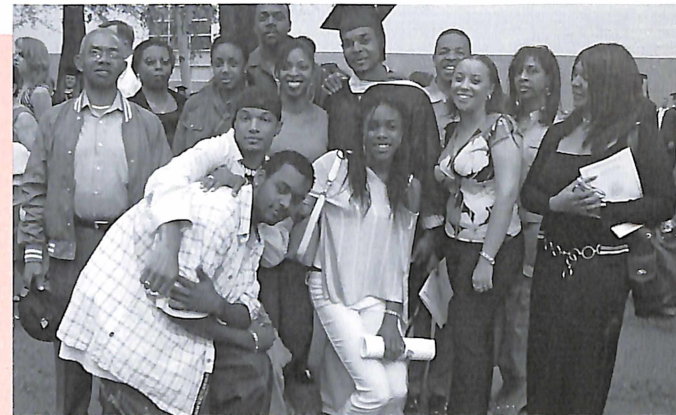
Professor of History Peter Ford, Ph.D. was honored as Teacher of the Year for the second time in the 20-year history of the Edward G. Roddy award (see related article).

## Dubus Advises "Find the Thing That Makes You – You"

By Kathleen Franzese

As he addressed the college's graduates, novelist Andre Dubus III told them about how his *New York Times* best seller *House of Sand and Fog* came to be. Nearly every day for three years, he wrote in his car, near a graveyard, on notebooks, in freezing weather and in stifling heat.

While he had held various other jobs in his life, including acting and construction, Dubus said about his writing,



Graduate Troy Lazaro (center) was surrounded by his family and friends on Commencement Day.



Two very enthusiastic families proudly showed support of their graduates.



Photos by David Barron

"All those days, all those weeks, all those months, all those years, writing that story in my car was probably the happiest and most joyous I have ever been, in addition to the joy, of course, of having my kids."

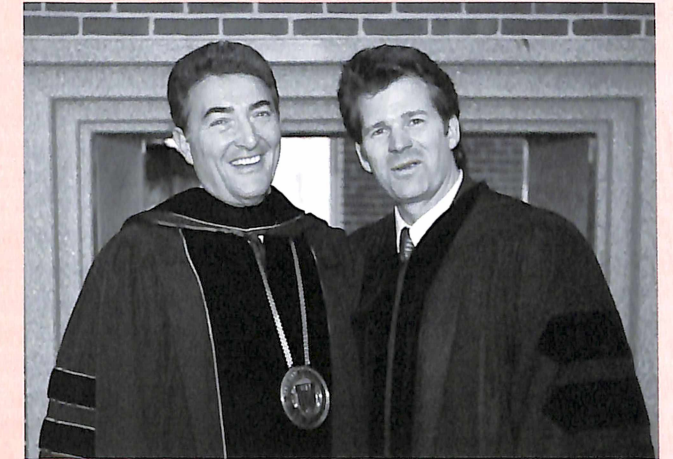
In light of that, he urged the students to "look for that thing, spend the rest of your life doing it if it takes that long, to find that thing or those things, that when you are doing them, you are simply more **you** than when you don't."

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## COMMENCEMENT

Because I think that is the sacred, holy path. When you follow that inner voice it tells you, this is your fate, your true role."

Dubus' *House of Sand and Fog* is published in 25 countries and is a major motion picture that earned three Oscar nominations this year. It was a fiction finalist for the 1999 National Book Award, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, the L.L. Winship/PEN New England Award, Booksense Book of the Year, and was an Oprah Book Club selection. His other works include *The Cage Keeper and Other Stories* and *Bluesman*. His work has been included in the Best American Essays of 1994, The Best Spiritual Writing of 1999, and The Best of Hope Magazine. He has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, the National Magazine Award for fiction in 1985, the Pushcart Prize, and he was a finalist for the Prix de Rome Fellowship from the Academy of Arts and Letters. He is a native of Massachusetts.



Andre Dubus III (right) with President Richard J. Santagati at Merrimack's 54th Commencement.

## Ford Double Winner as Outstanding Teacher

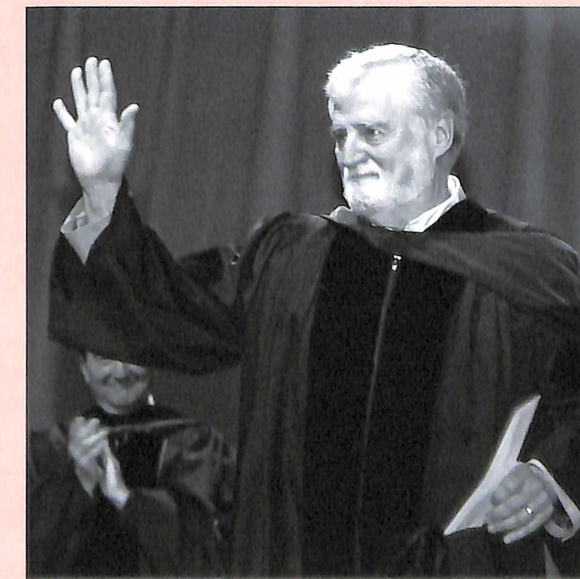
Nominated for the award by students as well as his colleagues, Professor of History Peter Ford, Ph.D. received the 2004 Edward G. Roddy Outstanding Teacher Award at Commencement. Ford is a standout recognized as a scholar who has demonstrated a devotion to teaching excellence, care and concern for students, and a deep dedication to learning. He also received the Roddy award in 1986 and is the first professor to be named "outstanding teacher" twice in the award's twenty-year history.

Ford is well-loved by many of his students, always challenging them to be stronger, harder working students, noted Provost and Dean of the College Rev. Gary McCloskey, O.S.A. as he presented the award to his colleague. Always cheerful, whistling and with a smile or wave for every student, "Professor Ford is well on his way to impacting three generations of students at Merrimack," he said.

A member of the Merrimack faculty since 1965, Dr. Ford holds a doctorate in medieval

studies, a master of arts in medieval studies, and a master of arts in history from the University of Notre Dame. A Fulbright scholar in Paris in 1960, he was an assistant professor at Texas A&M University from 1960 to 1965. He served as chair of Merrimack's History Department and served as dean of humanities from 1978 to 1979. Dr. Ford is an expert in the field of medieval intellectual history and has published works on this topic in academic journals.

"I am very honored to be chosen as the recipient of the Edward G. Roddy Outstanding Teacher Award, coming as it does from my students and faculty colleagues," said Ford. "Looking back over my 44 years of college teaching – five at Texas A&M University and the remainder at Merrimack – I can say that I have found them immensely rewarding. I think often about what I.F. Stone, the brilliant American journalist and muckraker, once said about his own profession, because his words express my own sentiments about teaching: 'I feel blessed by the gods, earning my bread doing what I love.'"



Dr. Peter Ford received the Edward G. Roddy Outstanding Teacher Award for the second time in 20 years.



## Are you a Strong-Hander or a Mixed-Hander?

By Julie Kirkwood – The Eagle-Tribune  
May 2, 2004

**H**uman handedness was the topic of this spring's annual Dennis L. McLaughlin Memorial Lecture sponsored by Merrimack's Department of Psychology in memory of Professor McLaughlin who taught for 29 years at the college. The guest lecturer was Dr. Stephen D. Christman, professor of psychology at the University of Toledo, who presented "Left-Handed, Right-Handed, Mixed-Handed: Mechanisms, Measurement, Musicians, Memory and Modularity." Assistant Professor of Psychology Ruth Propper has been researching this subject as well. The following is an article reprinted with permission from The Eagle-Tribune on that lecture.

It's a concept so deeply ingrained in popular culture that few even question it: Right-handed people are more analytical and logical while left-handed people are more creative and visual.

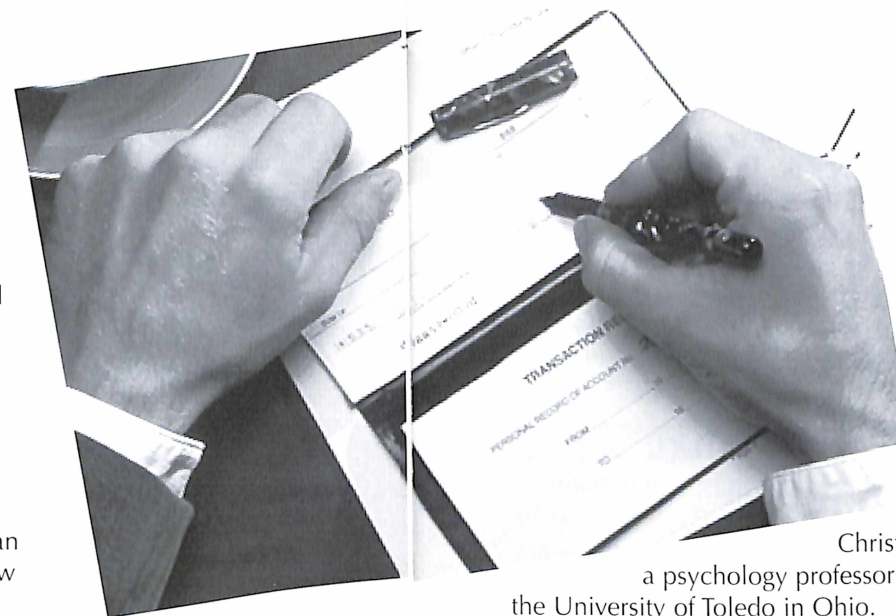
Best-selling books have been written, self-help programs created and educational theories developed based on the idea that some people – generally right-handers – are ruled by the linear, intellectual left hemisphere of the brain that controls the right side of the body, while others – mainly lefties – are ruled by the holistic, emotional right hemisphere.

Turns out it's just not true, or at least not that simple, psychologists are now saying.

New studies show nearly half of all right-handers think and behave more

like the stereotypical creative lefties while a few rare lefties have old-fashioned right-handed traits. A small team of researchers, including a professor at Merrimack College has an intriguing new theory to explain it.

It boils down to this: "Whether you write with your right or left hand is not really important," said Stephen D.



Christman, a psychology professor at the University of Toledo in Ohio. "What's important in handedness is the degree of handedness, the strength of your hand preference."

According to his theory, how you use your hands has a lot to say about how you use your mind.

Some people use the same hand for everything, from throwing a ball to opening a jar to holding a broom. Many others, however, have only a mild preference for right or left.

These people, to whom Christman refers as "mixed-handed," appear to have larger bundle of fibers, called the corpus callosum, connecting the left and right hemispheres of their brains. "Strong-handed" people, in contrast, appear to have a smaller connection and more independence between the hemispheres.

This strength of hand preference appears to be connected to such wildly different activities and abilities as playing a musical instrument, sleeping patterns, the vividness of a person's early childhood memories and even a person's belief in creationism or evolution.

"I was skeptical," said Joseph Hellige, a psychology professor at the University of Southern California who has known Christman for years. "The first time that Steve told me about this, I said 'You're a creative guy, but this is really a long shot'."

Yet as Christman and others put their theory to the test, it seems to hold up.

"I'm surprised that they're getting the interesting results that they are," Hellige said. "Their work is quite interesting and it's novel and it's starting to get a fair amount of attention."

### Merrimack experiments

Ruth Propper, an assistant professor of psychology at Merrimack College, has collaborated with Christman on several journal articles on how hand preference relates to sleep and memory. In one intriguing line of research, she has found that mixed-handers tend to have better memories of everyday personal experiences than strong-handers.

In an experiment, she asked Merrimack undergraduates to record a few noteworthy occurrences each day in a journal: a stubbed toe, seeing an old friend, going shopping at an unusual time, attending a funeral. A week later she gave them a surprise memory test.

"The mixed-handers were much better at remembering the items from their journals," Propper said. Not only did

together a memory out of words and images.

"In order to have an episodic memory, you really need to include a narrative with the visual picture in your head," Propper said.

Another experiment backed up this idea. Propper and other researchers asked undergraduates to recall their first childhood memory, which they then confirmed with the family. Mixed-handers could remember back, on average, to when they were 3 years and 10 months old. Strong-handers' first memories on average dated to age 4 1/2.

"Not only can they remember life better," Christman said, "they can remember a year or more more of their life, it appears."

### Believe it or not

Christman and other colleagues have taken the theory beyond memory. One of the most interesting implications they have found is how hand preference relates to beliefs.

The left brain hemisphere is where most people maintain their core beliefs about how the world works, Christman

## Concentration in Forensic Analysis Added

**I**t may have begun with the television show Quincy Jones, M.D. years ago, but with science shows such as *CSI* still as hot as ever, many students are contemplating forensic science as a career. A new concentration in Forensic Analysis is now one of five curriculum options within the chemistry major at Merrimack.

Students selecting the forensic analysis option will be prepared to work in analytical laboratories that investigate evidence from crime scenes. All students pursuing the Forensic Analysis concentration will be required to do a minimum of a one-semester internship in a state crime lab or other related criminal service agencies.

In addition to completing the college's institutional and distribution requirements, students interested in pursuing this option will complete the core program in chemistry plus two courses in forensic analysis, two semesters of biochemistry, Forensic Internship, coursework in criminology

and penology, and criminal law. The curriculum requires that courses in criminal law be taken at Northern Essex Community College, located just miles from Merrimack's campus.

One of two forensic courses offered is Chemical Principles of Forensic Science, an introduction to the characterization and analysis of evidence by physical, chemical, and biological means. The history and precedence of scientific evidence will be outlined and the course will concentrate on topics such as fingerprinting, blood typing, fiber analysis, and dye chemistry.

The second course is Advanced Forensic Analysis, which will focus on the techniques currently used in crime labs today for the processing of items of evidence.

The American Chemical Society (ACS) Committee on Professional Training has approved the Bachelor of Science in Chemistry degree program at Merrimack College.

### Merrimack Bound

- Merrimack received a record number of 3,525 applications for admission this year
- Fifty-one percent (51%) of the entering class are women. Forty-nine percent (49%) are men.
- Students represent 19 states and nine countries, including Uruguay, Japan, the Congo, and Turkey.
- Fifty-one percent (51%) are interested in liberal arts; twenty-three percent (23%) are interested in science and engineering, and twenty-six percent (26%) are interested in business.

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**This strength of hand preference appears to be connected to such wildly different activities and abilities as playing a musical instrument, sleeping patterns, the vividness of a person's early childhood memories and even a person's belief in creationism or evolution.**

the strongly-handed students forget events, they were also more likely to recall events that didn't actually happen.

The explanation for this difference, Propper believes, can be traced back to understanding how our brains make memories. In most people's brains, language, verbal information and word meanings are controlled by the left hemisphere. Spatial information and visual images tend to be controlled by the right hemisphere.

A person who has good cooperation between the two hemispheres, she said, probably has more skill at putting

said. The right hemisphere is the part of the brain that detects anomalies or inconsistencies in those beliefs and forces the left hemisphere to update itself.

It's not surprising, then, that mixed-handers with stronger connections between the two hemispheres are less likely to maintain beliefs that are out of date.

In one experiment, researchers showed test subjects a range of body silhouettes from skinny to plump and asked them to choose which was closest to their own shape. The researchers then measured the subjects' body mass

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### Are you a Strong-Hander or a Mixed-Hander?

index and compared perception to reality. Strong-handers' beliefs about their bodies were more out of whack than mixed-handers.

Another experiment, though, showed this updating of beliefs may go too far. Researchers devised an experiment in which they tried to persuade undergraduates that a massive tuition hike was a good idea. They used what they considered weak arguments, such as "we need money and you're the student," and more principled arguments about quality of education and the prestige of the school.

The stronger a person's hand preference, the less likely they were to buy even the stronger arguments. Students whose hand preference was most mixed, even bordering on ambidextrous, bought even the weakest arguments.

"They'll update their beliefs at the drop of the hat, for better or for worse," Christman said.

### Theories of evolution

In one study that pushes the theory to the limit, a researcher found that mixed-handers are more likely to believe that humans evolved over millions of years from single-celled organisms while strong-handers are more likely to believe humans originated when God created Adam and Eve.

Whether strength of hand preference predicts political leanings is unknown, but at the very least, strongly-handed people tend to hold more firmly to one set of beliefs – liberal or conservative – over time while mixed-handers are more likely to change their opinions, Christman said.

It's probably safe to assume, Christman said, that there were a fair number of mixed-handers among the young people in the 1960s who experimented with new social models, free love, drugs or women's rights. And many strong right-handers, he said, probably ranked among those who were more reserved.

"Society is served by both types of people," Christman said. "If all of society was mixed-handed, we would have all gone off the deep end in the 60s and ruined ourselves. If we were all strongly right-handed, we'd still have segregation."

Though he believes the studies to date are valid, Hellige cautioned that this hand preference theory, like any other, is likely to be changed and tweaked as more research is done.

"Scientific theories are rarely, maybe never, completely true," Hellige said. "As you go about testing the theory you may get positive results, but it doesn't mean the theory is true in all respects. ... An experiment never absolutely proves that a theory in its entirety is absolutely correct."

As a mixed-hander who writes with his left hand, Christman is certainly prepared to follow the research wherever it may lead. ■

## YAS Senior Awards Recognize Academic Initiative

More than 30 Merrimack seniors representing each division presented their senior projects at the fourth annual YAS Corporation Senior Project Awards.

The YAS Awards recognize academic initiative, originality, and achievement above and beyond that required by the major curriculum and are made possible by the generosity of entrepreneur Rouzbeh Yassini, founder and chief executive officer of YAS Broadband Ventures, LLC of Andover, Mass.

### WINNERS INCLUDED:

**First Place, Liberal Arts Division:** Stefanie Sordillo for "Appropriation: A Historical and Artistic License." Project Advisors were Associate Professor of Fine Arts David Sears; Chair and Professor of Fine Arts David Raymond, and Professor of Fine Arts Ellen Longworth.

**First Place, Business Division:** Russ Byrne for "Chaos in Financial Markets." Project Advisor was Assistant Professor of Accounting and Finance Michael Santos.

**First Place, Science and Engineering Division:** Nathan Mangel for "A Forty-Year Mystery Solved! A Novel Synthesis of Pyrrolidones." Project Advisor was Associate Professor of Chemistry Cynthia McGowan.

First prize was \$5,000, and cash prizes were also awarded to second and third place winners in each division.



Photo by Julie Jackson Flynn  
Russell Byrne '04 (right) won first place in the business division for his YAS senior project. Pictured with him are (left to right): Mike Santos, assistant professor of Accounting and Finance; and Rouzbeh Yassini, founder and chief executive officer of YAS Broadband Ventures, LLC of Andover, Mass.

## – FACULTY UPDATE –

### Ciejek Chair Named *By David Rattigan*

Given the chance to "revisit academia for awhile," Colin Young, Ph.D. enjoyed his first year in a two-year appointment as Merrimack's first Ciejek Chair in International Finance.

"It was interesting and quite fun," said Young, an engaging native of the United Kingdom. "I've never taught freshmen before (as he did at Merrimack), and I really enjoyed the people I worked with."

What most excites Young, recipient of the college's first endowed chair position, is the chance to reorganize the finance curriculum at the Francis E. Girard School of Business and International Commerce, as the college pushes toward national accreditation.

The Ciejek Chair in International Finance was established through a \$1 million gift from alumni Dan '70 and Linda (Fletcher) Ciejek '71 to support an outstanding professor at the college's business school. It is the Ciejeks' belief that endowed chairs are critical in ensuring top teacher-scholars who are leaders in their respective fields.

They certainly got that in Young, who holds a master's degree from the London School of Economics and a doctorate from the London Business School. He formerly taught at the world's largest business school, Baruch College in New York, and at Massachusetts' Bentley College. Young was a faculty member at Bentley for 15 years, serving as chair for the Finance Department, and director of the Master of Science and Finance Program.

As such, he notes, he's "been involved in the structuring and restructuring of finance (programs) for a long

time." He left Bentley to become a consultant to private business, but was drawn back to academia by the chance to play a role in the development of the curriculum at the Girard School. The Girard School is moving toward accreditation by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), which will put it into an elite group of approximately 400 business schools worldwide.

"I'm most excited about participating in changing (the curriculum)," Young said. "Everybody in the business school is really a part of it, just as everybody participates in teaching business core courses."

One notable part of that curriculum structure could be providing a concentration in both finance and accounting. Young notes that many accounting or finance majors know their own area well, but are not as familiar with others. A deeper understanding of both may have great relevance in their future careers.

"I hope to be involved in developing a concentration in finance and accounting – a very interesting and powerful combination," he says.

According to Rev. Gary McCloskey, O.S.A., provost and dean of the college, "The Ciejek Chair at Merrimack is yet another example of excellence and commitment to providing strong faculty role models and mentors for our students. Support for an endowed chair demonstrates to incoming and current students the strong relationship that Merrimack has with our alumni and other partners who support education. We are grateful to the Ciejeks for their continued support." ■



Photo by Kevin Salemme  
Colin Young, Ph.D., Ciejek Chair in International Finance

### Swallow Receives Fulbright Senior Specialist Grant

Dr. Kathleen Swallow, professor of chemistry and former dean of the faculty, Science and Engineering at Merrimack, received a Fulbright Senior Specialists grant in environmental science this year at University of the West Timisoara (UVT), Faculty of Chemistry-Biology-Geography in Romania.

The Fulbright Senior Specialists Program offers two- to six-week grants to leading U.S. academics and professionals to support curricular and faculty development and institutional planning at academic institutions in 140 countries around the world. Created to complement the traditional Fulbright Scholar Program, the Senior Specialists Program aims at increasing the number of faculty and professionals who have the opportunity to go abroad on a Fulbright.

Dr. Swallow, an environmental chemist, has been interested in the idea of doing some environmental work in Eastern Europe for 14 years.

She traveled to the University of West Timisoara in April and May and offered an intense six-week course for master's students at the Graduate and Postgraduate Study of Environmental Protection (GRATE) program, which is based on case studies of environmental pollution and cleanup in the United States.

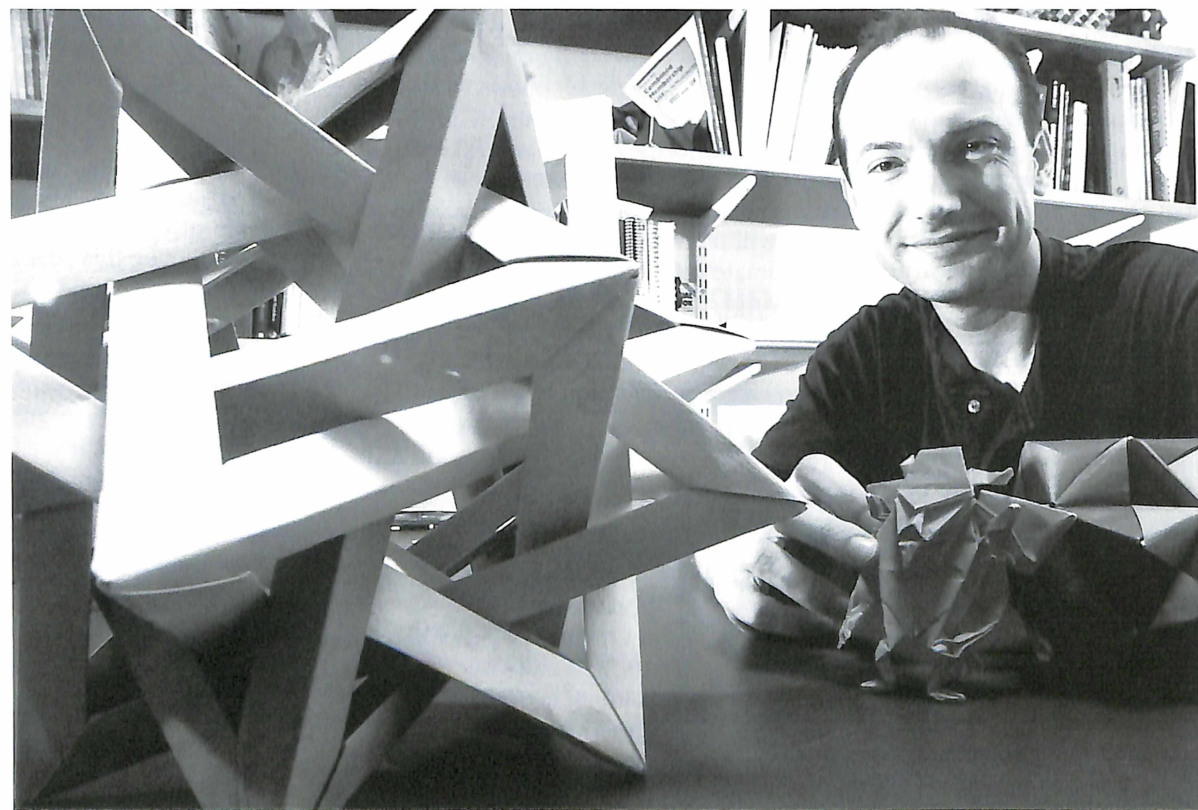
Additionally, she explored current efforts to avoid future problems and spent some time looking at some of the problems in the area around Timisoara. She also participated in curriculum review for the department and advised the faculty on writing successful grant applications to attract funds for research and fellowships, especially from the European community.

This trip was Swallow's fifth and longest trip to Romania. Currently on sabbatical, Dr. Swallow will return to teach in the fall of 2004. ■



# Art of Paper Folding Opens World of Mathematics

By David Rattigan



Thomas Hull, Ph.D., associate professor of mathematics, demonstrates the art of origami.

Photo by The Eagle Tribune

Several pieces of colorful three-dimensional geometric artwork liven up Associate Professor Thomas Hull's office, as befits a person who is expert in both mathematics and origami, the ancient art of paper folding.

"I believe math is best learned in discovery mode," Hull said, talking about how origami can be used to teach principles of mathematics. "Someone can just stand at the board and lecture and give away this beautiful stuff, and the students say, 'Fine.' But if the students can discover it for themselves, they say, 'Wow, this is cool.' By playing around with it, they learn to appreciate the intricacies."

Origami is an art form that started in Japan ("ori" means "fold," and "kami" is "paper") and has been refined through the ages by practitioners around the world. By folding the paper in intricate ways, masters of the art can create animals, flowers, masks, and decorative pieces that can evoke emotion and – in much of Hull's work – convey ingenuity. His work has a distinctly geometric look. For example, one of his signature pieces is the "five-intersecting tetrahedra," described in the book *Origamido* as "a geometric form composed of five four-sided intersecting pyramids . . . (perceived) as frames that could be interwoven."

Origami is about patterns and the equations that create them, said Hull, who is writing a textbook spun partly from his popular upper-level Combinatorial Geometry course (teaching geometry and graph theory using origami models). The intricate crease pattern forms the blueprint of

➤ **Origami is an art form that started in Japan ("ori" means "fold," and "kami" is "paper")**

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## Art of Paper Folding

the fold, he says. When a student figures out an origami design – "proving" it mathematically – he or she is able to mentally bridge geometric theory with an actual end result.

"What math is really about is finding patterns in nature," he said, using the example of Sir Isaac Newton's Three Laws of Motion. "They're mathematical equations, but they tell us something about the real world. They tell us about mass and acceleration and their interaction."

Origami can illustrate nature's patterns in a similar way. To illustrate, Hull unfolds the popular "Japanese crane," a relatively simple, flat origami model. He traces the creases with a black marker, then takes a red pen and colors between three creases to create a red panel. Hull alternately fills in other panels with the red pen, in a pattern; if he uses the red pen to fill one side of a black crease, he leaves the other side of the crease alone. In this way, half the panels are red, and half are white, and no red or white panels are side-by-side. Their corners touch.

This is a method used in graph theory, he explained, used to analyze a network of points

and lines. Folding the crane back together, he notes that everything on one side of the model is colored red, and everything on the other side is colored white.

"Any flat origami model has this property," he said. "If you unfold it and look at the crease pattern, you can two-color it."

"I can take any group of students, give them some paper, show them how to fold it and start asking questions, or ask them to figure things out," Hull said. "To do that, they've got to think like a mathematician."

Hull started practicing origami as a young child, and he has been incorporating it into his mathematical career for the past 14 years.

"In addition to helping artists design more complex origami models, this kind of research has been of interest to scientists. For example, biologists who study protein folding are becoming interested in origami mathematics. Engineers have used origami methods to design solar panels for space satellites that are small when placed in a rocket capsule and unfold into large panels in outer space. Educators are also interested in this as an exciting and hands-on way to teach math," explained Hull.



## Origami Expert Receives Murray Fellowship

By Julie Jackson Flynn

Dr. Thomas Hull, assistant professor of mathematics at Merrimack College, was named the 2004-2005 recipient of the Paul E. Murray Fellowship. The fellowship is awarded annually in the amount of \$10,000 at Merrimack College to promote science and engineering research that will lead to enhanced effectiveness in classroom teaching.

As the recipient, Dr. Hull will continue to study the mathematics of origami, or paper folding. In fall 2005, Dr. Hull will present his results at the fourth annual Paul E. Murray Symposium in Science and Engineering.

The fellowship and symposium grew from the Paul E. Murray Fund, which has generously enriched Merrimack's science and engineering education since the 1980s. A bequest from the late Andover resident Paul E. Murray, former district manager of engineering for the East Central District with General Electric, has enhanced Merrimack College's science program. His daughter, former Merrimack trustee Ms. Alice Murray, re-dedicated the Murray Fund to fulfill its original commitment to faculty development and to elevate its impact to support significant projects of research and study at Merrimack.

"I am delighted and honored to receive the 2004-2005 Paul E. Murray Fellowship. Given the very strong research going on in the Science and Engineering Division, it is a real tribute to be selected," said Hull. "This fellowship will give me time to write a definitive textbook on origami mathematics – a dream project of mine for the past ten years. I am personally touched by the generosity of the Murray family to help make this happen."

To learn more about learning math through origami, go to <http://web.merrimack.edu/~thull/OrigamiMath.html>.



"We were looking for that place where we, who were serving you, Lord, could make ourselves more useful, and thus we all went back to Africa." —Augustine, *Confessions* 9.8.17

## Solidarity with Africa

By David Rattigan

Solidarity with the people of Africa will be the theme of the 2004 Thagaste Symposium, Merrimack's annual gathering of scholars and students to discuss the life and thought of St. Augustine on ideas and issues of interest and concern to contemporary scholars.

"Relationships with Africa will be a theme for the next few years," said Joseph Kelley, Ph.D., D.Min, director of Merrimack's Center for Augustinian Study and Legacy, who noted that Thagaste (now Souk Ahras) in Algeria was Augustine's birthplace, and was also the site of Augustine's first community of faith, contemplation and study in A.D. 390. Augustinians currently serve in six African countries, working with those in great need. This fall also marks the 1,650th anniversary of St. Augustine's birth.

This year's symposium, scheduled for Sept. 29, is *Human, Social and Spiritual Development: Augustinian Solidarity with Africa*. Approaching topics from ecumenical, inter-religious and interdisciplinary perspectives, members of the faculty, students and visiting Augustinian scholars will present and respond to prepared papers, which will help to elucidate and explore a range of problems faced by Africans today.

Invited guests include Rev. Jesus Guzman, O.S.A., of the Augustinian non-governmental organization at the United Nations; Rev. Lucian Borg, O.S.A., provincial of Malta/Algeria; and Rev. Patrick Akinrimisi, O.S.A., provincial of Nigeria. Faculty speakers

include professors Dr. He Li (political science), Dr. George Heffernan (philosophy) and Dr. Marcia Walsh (biology).

In addition to presenting her paper on the AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa, Walsh plans to forge a new relationship between Merrimack College and a Nigerian clinic and school this fall. She will include a service learning component to her clinical microbiology class, having Merrimack students assist in establishing an annual campaign to raise awareness and funds to support prevention efforts, in partnership with the Augustinian Order in Nigeria. Students will try to collect pledges of \$4 per person from those in the Merrimack community. The \$4 will pay for one dose of the drug Nevirapine, which helps prevent transmission of AIDS from a mother to her baby.

"This is an opportunity to do something in a concrete way for those people who are suffering," Walsh said. "This is a very small project, to make a difference to the Augustinian community in Africa."

Lectures and discussions during the symposium are open to all members of the college and to visitors. For more information, call the Center for Augustinian Study and Legacy at 978-837-5218.

## THAGASTE SYMPOSIUM 2004

Wednesday, September 29

Merrimack College  
Cascia Hall

### Human, Social and Spiritual Development: Augustinian Solidarity with Africa

Remarks and presentations will include:

- **Augustinian Solidarity with and Promotion of Africa**

Rev. Patrick Akinrimisi, O.S.A.,  
Provincial of Nigeria

- **Augustine of Africa: Lessons from His Postcolonial Struggle with Roman Imperialism and Donatist Exclusivism**

Dr. George Heffernan,  
Department of Philosophy

- **Paths to Development: A Comparative Study of East Asia and Africa**

Dr. He Li, Department of Political Science

- **Care and Hope for a Dying Continent: AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa**

Dr. Marcia Walsh, Department of Biology

- **Augustinians Without Borders**

Presentation of a new relationship between Merrimack College and a clinic and a school affiliated with Augustinians in Nigeria

- **African Development: A Meeting Place for Christians and Muslims?**

Rev. Lucian Borg, O.S.A.,  
Provincial of Malta/Algeria

## Students Group Joins Pellegrinaggio V Trip

By Julie Jackson Flynn

After five years, there was an added dimension to the college's annual Pellegrinaggio trip. This year 14 students traveled to Italy on their first *Amici Studenti Pellegrini Agostiniani* (ASPA) trip during spring break. Much like the annual Pellegrinaggio trips taken by faculty, administrators, alumni and trustees, this student trip included many visits important to the heritage of St. Augustine.

*In its five years, the Pellegrinaggio experience has provided travelers a deeper understanding of the spirit of St. Augustine, and the history, community, and spirituality of the Order.*

It has also been instrumental in building a strong sense of community.

To prepare for the trip, students read selected works of St. Augustine discussing the history of the Order.

The students' destination included a visit to Sant Agostino's monastery in San Gimignano in Tuscany where they put in a fruit and vegetable garden for the friars, did repair work, such as painting, plastering, and woodworking on the 14th-century medieval monastery. They viewed the Gozzoli Frescoes at the church of San Agostino, and met up with Merrimack's Pellegrinaggio V group as they journeyed through Tuscany.

Their trip also included a visit to the south of Rome to Gennazzano, site of the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Counsel and the resting place of Blessed Stephen Bellesini, O.S.A.

"It was exciting to go and see everything firsthand. We've been reading *The Young Augustine* and *A Man of Our Times*. It's an educational, faith experience. There was a lot of time for personal reflection and discussion," said Vicki Izzo '04, who is now an Augustinian volunteer. ■



Students paused for a group photo while in Italy last spring for Amici Studenti Pellegrini Agostiniani (ASPA). Pictured front row left to right: Mike MacNeill '04, Jenn Dziekan '04, Caitlin Daly '04, Casey Sylvestro '05, Mike Lemenager '05. Pictured top row left to right: Chris Serino '04, Adrianna Grasso '05, Rachael Prisco '06, Josh Blaszk '06, Lisa Baranowski '05, Vicky Izzo '04, Zach Blaszk '04, Chris Vasta '04, Fr. Ian Wilson, O.S.A. and Matt Giordano '06.

## Lessons from Dad Mirror Augustinian Values

By David Rattigan

When she became a student at Merrimack College in the 1970s, one of the things her father gave Catharine de Lacy '80 was his copy of *The Confessions of St. Augustine*.

"A lot of what is in the book was consistent with my dad's philosophy in education," de Lacy said of her late father. "He and my mom were both interested in their children's education being the whole person. They believed there were many different ways to learn, which I find to be consistent with the Augustinian theme."

Her parents, particularly her father, challenged her through an ongoing dialogue, to be perceptive in her observations, and not to always accept things at face value. Those are themes she finds today in the teachings of St. Augustine, and one of the reasons that her gift to the college will support this year's Thagaste Symposium, in memory of her father Eamonn de Lacy, who died in 1994.

"Like Socrates, Augustine was always probing people on toward a deeper understanding of the world and of God," said Joseph Kelley, Ph.D., D.Min, director of Merrimack's Center for Augustinian Study and Legacy. "One theologian has said that St. Augustine thought in questions. In that sense, Catharine's quote captures the essence of the Augustinian tradition. She understands why and how her particular gift will further the mission of the college."

De Lacy is pleased to rediscover the Augustinian tradition and that it remains strong at Merrimack. With her gift, de Lacy is hoping to set an example for others across the college community.

"I hope other alumni will gain a better understanding of, and get involved with, the Augustinian component of our Merrimack education," she said. ■



## Demers Gift Endows Professorship in Life Sciences *By David Rattigan*

**A**s a member of one of Merrimack's first graduating classes and a 31-year faculty member at the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, Professor Laurence Demers, Ph.D. '60 has developed a keen understanding of the similarities of and differences between the two very different institutions of higher learning.

One is large and established, the other small and still in its first century, and Demers feels a strong connection to both. As a faculty member – he is one of four people to hold the title of distinguished professor at Penn State – Demers is aware of the value of an endowed professorship, both for faculty development and for attracting high-level faculty to the college. That's the reason behind the \$200,000 gift that he and his wife Susan (Bernard) '62 have made to establish an endowed professorship – an ongoing fund that will enable Merrimack to reward current faculty in the life sciences (biology, chemistry) or to attract new faculty in the life sciences to the college's Division of Science and Engineering.

"Merrimack is getting to the point in its history where successful alumni may take a look at what they can do for the college, and look back on what they

got from the college and its faculty," said Demers, a member of the college's board of trustees since 2001. Through alumni support, "Merrimack can continue to thrive."

A professor of pathology and medicine, Demers has written 400 academic papers, edited seven books, and contributed 44 chapters to other books in the life science area. He has also been a member of several advisory boards and worked as a consultant for major pharmaceutical firms, helping to steer the direction of drug development. For example, his work on aspirin studies helped lead to its prophylactic use today to prevent heart attacks, and his earlier work with non-steroidal anti-inflammatories led the way to ibuprofen being introduced into use in reproductive medicine.

As he prepared for what he calls "semi-retirement," Demers established endowed professorships at both Penn State (pathology and medicine) and Merrimack. In addition to his involvement as a trustee, he and his wife are active with the St. Augustine Society.

"The gift made by Dr. Demers is an absolutely fantastic demonstration of support for our program," said Dr. Russ Pinizzotto, dean of the faculty of science and engineering at Merrimack.

"It will enable us to enhance and further develop the life sciences curriculum here, and help the faculty integrate current research methods into teaching. We're working to strengthen our areas of research, which is sometimes difficult to do in a college like ours that is not a research-oriented institution. This will help us move in that direction."



*Merrimack College trustee Dr. Laurence Demers '60 and his wife Susan (Bernard) Demers '62 are active with the St. Augustine Society, a major donor recognition society.*

## Friends of Merrimack Contribute \$330,000 for Scholarships

*By Kathleen Franzese*

**A** gift of more than \$330,000, the announcement of a new scholarship, and the presentation of the annual Friends of Merrimack College Award were all celebrated at the recent annual dinner of the Friends of Merrimack, an organization committed to providing scholarship support to Merrimack students.

The Friends presented its largest gift ever – more than \$330,000 – to Merrimack College to benefit student scholarships. The funds are raised throughout the year through membership dues and funds raised at events such as golf tournaments and special lectures.

Merrimack College President Richard J. Santagati accepted the check on behalf of the college and said, "Once again the Friends of Merrimack has been able to raise extraordinary resources that help provide our students with access to an education they might not otherwise receive. Your dedication and generosity is about educating young men and women who, when they graduate, will have a need to give something back to the community. I thank you for what you do for our students and for our college."

Two scholarships: the Frank J. Leone Endowed Scholarship, and the J. Leo Cronin/Charlotte Cronin Endowed Scholarship were also recognized during the dinner. A new scholarship, the Joyce Daher-Belko Memorial Scholarship, was announced in memory of a long-time and extremely dedicated member of the Friends of Merrimack College who was serving as president at the time of her death in summer 2003. The Board of Directors of the Friends of Merrimack and her family started the scholarship in hopes that it will soon become an endowed scholarship and will help many students in the years to come.

To join the Friends of Merrimack College, call 978-837-5117.

## Long-time College Friend Honored

**A** long-time supporter of Merrimack College was honored with the 2004 Friends of Merrimack College award. James Doherty, of Andover, Mass., was honored at the group's annual dinner for his unwavering commitment to social, cultural, and fundraising activities that ultimately benefit students of the college.

According to President Santagati, who presented the award, Doherty has been involved with Merrimack College since its founding in 1947 and was instrumental in its early development and its continued progress over many, many decades. He was a close friend of Rev. Vincent A. McQuade, O.S.A., who started the college for the Augustinian Order and became Merrimack's first president.

"Fr. McQuade was fortunate to benefit from the wisdom and council of Jim Doherty, and the college has continued to benefit from Jim's extraordinary dedication," Santagati said.

Doherty has co-owned Doherty Insurance Agency and Doherty Realty Agency since 1937. For 27 years, he has served as the Town Moderator for the town of Andover, Mass. and has contributed to myriad community groups and organizations.

Doherty reminisced about the beginning of Merrimack College as he accepted his award, "In my humble opinion, the greatest thing that happened in the 20th century to this area was the institution and development of Merrimack College."

Doherty was the unanimous choice of the



*Photo by Melody KO: The Eagle Tribune*  
Jim Doherty (left), who was instrumental in helping Merrimack College establish roots and to flourish, was honored with this year's Friends of Merrimack College Award at the group's annual meeting in May.

## St. Augustine Society Members Recognized

**M**embers of the St. Augustine Society and their guests gathered for an enjoyable dinner followed by a performance by the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra in the Rogers Center for the Arts in April. The society is comprised of alumni, parents and friends of Merrimack who contribute \$5,000 or more each year to the college, and who wish to foster the relationship between students and alumni.

"Our first St. Augustine Society dinner was a very pleasant evening that recognized the tremendous commitment of these individuals to Merrimack and to our students," said President Richard J. Santagati. "These individuals are leaders and provide critical support to the future of our college."

At the center of the St. Augustine Society, a giving opportunity to support the intellectual and pastoral legacy of the Order of St. Augustine, is the Augustinian mission of Merrimack College – to awaken the hearts and minds of a new generation. This initiative is led by Co-Chairpersons



*Photo by Neal Hamberg*  
St. Augustine Society members Nancy (Arnesano) Petrucci '75 (left) and Rose Di Stefano '54 enjoyed the first annual recognition dinner held this spring.

Francis Girard '62, Susan (Bernard) Demers '62 and Dr. Laurence Demers '60. Girard and Laurence Demers are also members of the college's Board of Trustees.

Benefactors of the St. Augustine Society are a vital part of the mission to incorporate Augustinian ideals into the intellectual and spiritual identity of each member of the Merrimack family and the wider community. They receive special invitations to annual events, opportunities to interact with faculty and students, and to play an intimate part of the college's mission. ■

## President's Cup Raises Most Ever

**T**he 2004 President's Cup Golf Tournament featured a great day of golf and friendship for 220 players and many sponsors. More importantly, the event raised more than \$66,000 for the college and its students, the most successful President's Cup ever.

"The unwavering generosity of the players, sponsors and many supporters of the President's Cup has created a tradition of success that ultimately benefits the students of Merrimack College," said President Richard J. Santagati. ■



## Merrimack Students are Best Buddies By Kathleen Franzese

*Chris Serino '04 and his buddy Bobby Kidwell of Andover, Mass. have attended Merrimack hockey games, Lowell Spinners games, gone out to dinner and just hung together for the past two years. Although Bobby is not a student, or even Serino's age, the two have forged a special friendship and become "best buddies."*

Chris and Bobby met through the Best Buddies program, an international organization designed to create mutually enriching friendships for adults with intellectual disabilities. Under the guidance of Rev. James Wenzel, O.S.A., and thanks to the commitment of a small group of students, an official chapter of the national Best Buddies program has grown and flourished at Merrimack. The college's chapter was recognized on campus this spring as the Student Organization of the Year.

The Best Buddies program pairs Merrimack students together with adults with intellectual disabilities. The group hosts a party on campus once a month, mainly around a theme such as Valentine's Day or Halloween, where all the buddies and others gather for dancing, refreshments and other activities. In addition, each student meets once a month with their buddies one-on-one for a fun activity.

"When I go out with Bobby, it helps him to be more integrated into society, something that can be difficult for individuals with intellectual disabilities," explained Serino. "It is a nice difference for him and it gives his parents, who care for him full-time at home, a chance to do other things as well."

In a short time, these students have impressed many local leaders and service-oriented groups with their consistent involvement, dedication and compassion. Twenty-two Merrimack students and Fr. Jim were recognized by Creative Living, Inc., a nonprofit organization that assists adults with intellectual disabilities, at their annual meeting this spring. A plaque presented to the college and accepted by students honored Merrimack "in recognition of college

buddies who have created friendships and made a difference by enhancing the lives of people with special needs."

Lucille Giannone, treasurer of Creative Living Inc, said, "It's amazing to have had such a fine group of college students, who have looked beyond themselves and taken on such a remarkable endeavor as creating Best Buddies International on the campus of Merrimack College. It has made a difference and some great friendships have formed. It's been my pleasure to have worked with such a great group of young folks. They have done themselves and Merrimack College proud."

Student Lisa Baranowski '05 says that she is involved with Best Buddies for the enjoyment she gets from it. "I have

experienced a great friendship with my buddy Pam. We go out to dinner and enjoy each other's company. I also love to watch the other buddy pairs to see what a positive impact they are having on each other. Best Buddies has helped to develop a true sense of friendship around Merrimack's campus and surrounding communities," said Baranowski.

Fr. Jim sees the college's Best Buddies chapter as a great learning experience for students and an opportunity to create links with the community beyond the campus. "This is a wonderful chance for our students, not only to provide service, but to develop an appreciation for this reality in life that there are some people who are mentally challenged."

To become an official chapter, Serino and Baranowski traveled to Indiana State University last summer for training by the national Best Buddies association. Mandatory to become a Best Buddies chapter, the training included information about disabilities and how to bring back what they've learned to others on

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Photo by Carl Russo/The Eagle-Tribune  
Merrimack College and its students were recently recognized for being "best buddies" by Creative Living, Inc., a nonprofit group working for adults with special needs for 18 years. Rev. James Wenzel, O.S.A., moderator of Best Buddies at Merrimack, (center) accepted two appreciation plaques presented by Lucille Giannone, treasurer of Creative Living, and Raymond DiFiore, the group's president. Several students involved in the program were also on hand. They were (left to right): Adriana Grasso '05, Lisa M. Baranowski '05, David S. Dlugasch '05, and Christopher Serino '04.

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## Best Buddies



Photo by Carl Russo/The Eagle-Tribune  
Chris Serino and his best buddy Bobby Kidwell

campus. The group runs their own fundraisers to support the various parties and activities for their buddies.

**Fr. Jim sees the college's Best Buddies chapter as a great learning experience for students and an opportunity to create links with the community beyond the campus.**

The leaders of the group, Serino, Baranowski, Adriana Grasso and David Dlugasche, have a goal to increase the number of buddy pairs at Merrimack and to expand to other host sites in the Merrimack Valley.

"Some students are nervous about becoming involved in Best Buddies, but we tell them to attend our programs and see if they are interested. We have many associate members who help with our functions, but are not yet ready to be individual buddies. And that's ok," said Serino.

## Three Trustees Join Board By Julie Jackson Flynn

Three individuals joined the Merrimack College Board of Trustees this spring: **John T. Donovan '78**, of Natick, Mass.; **Joseph A. Smialowski '71** of Newton, Conn., and **Christine M. Sullivan Zampell '75** of Wenham, Mass.

Since 2000, Donovan has been vice president of operations at Amerifee LLC, a division of Capital One Financial Corporation, a medical finance company. From 1990 to 2000 he was corporate human resources manager at Kraft Foods, holding the second ranking position in labor relations for 60 locations throughout the United States and Canada. He served as a consultant to the senior vice presidents of all product lines. From 1984 to 1990 he was director of human resources at IRT Corp., a defense contractor for high-level/top secret government projects. From 1980 to 1984 he worked as human resources manager for Jamesbury Ball Valve Corporation and from 1978 to 1980 he was assistant manager for labor relations at Raytheon's Andover, Mass. facility.

Donovan is a strong supporter of high school and college athletics. He has been involved in the Malden Catholic High School \$2 million renovation project of their new football field and track, which is named Donovan Field in honor of his late father. He also led a successful \$1.2 million campaign, providing one of the lead gifts to name the hockey rink at Merrimack College in honor of the former hockey coach, J. Thom Lawler. Donovan is a member of the St. Augustine Society, a group of friends and alumni who look to foster the relationship between students and alumni, and is co-chair of the Blue Line Club, which supports the hockey program at Merrimack. He was Merrimack's Alumnus of the Year in 2003.

Donovan received a B.S. in finance from Merrimack College. He received an M.B.A. from New Hampshire College.

**Christine Zampell '75** has been involved with the creation and growth of the Zampell Companies in Newburyport, Mass. for the past 20 years with her husband, James C. Zampell, '75, and is manager of the real estate companies and director of corporate giving.

She has been a science educator in the Andover (Mass.) Public Schools and at St. Mary of the Annunciation School in Danvers, Mass. She has served as a volunteer on numerous projects at St. Mary's, as well as Bishop Fenwick High School and St. John's Preparatory School. Zampell is an alumna of Our Lady of Nazareth Academy and since 2003 has served on its board of directors, and co-chairs the facilities committee. Additionally, she has been a member of the Corporate Council at the Wenham Museum since 2000 and is the current chair.

A member of the St. Augustine Executive Board, she and her husband have been long-time supporters of Merrimack College.

Zampell received a B.A. in biology from Merrimack College and has completed many courses in relation to her science teaching certificates. She is the daughter of the late Delphine and James B. Sullivan, Ph.D., former educator and administrator at University of Massachusetts Salem.

**Joseph A. Smialowski '71** is executive vice president of Fleet Boston Financial and a member of the company's management committee. His responsibilities include information systems, technology infrastructure operations, check processing, ATM operations, commercial loan administration, electronic payments (wire and ACH) operations, money services (vaults), trade, foreign exchange, treasury and derivative operations, corporate real estate, procurement.

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security, business continuity and crises management for Fleet's consumer, small business, private banking, asset management, commercial, corporate, cash management and capital markets businesses in Asia, Europe, Latin America and the United States. With the Bank of America's acquisition of Fleet Boston Financial, he has assumed a key leadership role on the integration team.

In addition to his responsibility at Fleet Boston, Smialowski is a member of the Private Sector Council, serves on the Rochester Institute of Technology's Presidential Roundtable and is active in the United Way of Boston. He has also served as part of National Academy of Science study teams, with the most recent being a review of the FBI's Information Technology Modernization program.

Prior to joining Fleet Boston in 1998, Smialowski was senior vice president and chief information officer for Sears, Roebuck and Co. From 1984 to 1993, he was a partner in the firm of Price Waterhouse. Early in his career, Mr. Smialowski held management positions at Dennison Manufacturing from 1983 to 1984, Xerox from 1974 to 1983 and The Hartford from 1972 to 1974.

Mr. Smialowski graduated from Merrimack College with a B.A. in philosophy; he received an M.S. in computer systems management from the Rochester Institute of Technology. ■

## Stevens Service Learning Center Receives Gift

The trustees of the Stevens Foundation recently gifted \$60,000 to the Stevens Service Learning Center.

"I am grateful for the support of the Stevens Foundation. They have had a long standing commitment to the City of Lawrence and the Merrimack Valley and their generosity is visible in many different ways," said Mary McHugh, director of the Stevens Service Learning Center.

Over the past five years their support of the Stevens Center has enabled the practice of service learning to grow and flourish on campus. Since 1998, over 2,000 students have participated in a service learning assignment. The Stevens Foundation's grant validates the tremendous amount of service that our students are doing in the many different areas of the Merrimack Valley community and the importance of that service.

## Three Named to Administrator Positions

President Richard J. Santagati announced the appointments of several individuals to administrator positions at Merrimack. Joining the college recently are **Paul Swindlehurst** as vice president of Institutional Advancement; **Jeff Yanagi** as executive director of Human Resources; and alumna **Diane Applegate '91** as director of Corporations/Foundation Relations.

Swindlehurst comes to Merrimack with a wealth of experience in development, specifically in higher education. Most recently, he has been providing technical assistance and advice for organizations concerning campaign strategy, planning and development. From 1998 to 2002, Paul served as executive director of development/chief development officer at Bentley College. Prior to that role, he was the director of alumni development for the College of Business Administration at Northeastern



Paul Swindlehurst is vice president of Institutional Advancement.

University. Paul earned a bachelor of science in education from Northeastern University.

As vice president, Swindlehurst will oversee all of Merrimack's fundraising and alumni relations initiatives. He and his team are responsible for achieving significant increases in philanthropy and alumni involvement in accordance with the college's strategic planning objectives.

Also new to the Office of Institutional Advancement is Diane Applegate, who comes to the college from Exelon Generation where she was manager of public affairs and media relations since December 2002. Prior to that, she was the legislative liaison between the Massachusetts legislature and the Office of Elder Affairs. She has worked for several legislators in the Massachusetts State House, including former state senators James Jajuga and John O'Brien in the 1990s.



Diane Applegate is director of Corporations/Foundation Relations.

An active supporter of Merrimack College, Applegate is currently the president of the college's Alumni Council, in her second year of service. She has a B.A. in political science from Merrimack College and a M.A. in communication studies, integrated marketing communications, from Emerson College.

In her new role, Applegate will lead the college's program to seek gifts and grants from corporations and private foundations. Working extensively with faculty and other members of the college community, she will also seek grant support from federal and state government agencies.

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**Administrators**

Jeff Yanagi, Merrimack's new executive director of Human Resources, is also no stranger to Merrimack. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, he helped to develop the college's Co-operative Education program, serving as its director from 1979 to 1984. His experience and growth in the human resources arena began when he left Merrimack for Wang Laboratories where he worked as a human resources generalist and manager of college recruiting. From there Yanagi worked at Lechmere Corporation, Lotus Development Corporation from 1988 to 1999, and at CMGI, Inc. as executive vice president for Human Resources from 1999 to 2003. He most recently was managing director/HR business partner at FleetBoston Financial Corporation. He has a bachelor of science degree in industrial engineering from Rutgers University and worked for Raytheon Corporation as an engineer from 1974 to 1978.



Jeff Yanagi is executive director of Human Resources.

"Each of these individuals brings to Merrimack many strengths that I believe will greatly contribute to the already strong efforts of these various departments," said President Santagati. "These individuals have important roles that will enable the college to fulfill the goals and objectives of our strategic plan." ■

**For more Merrimack news, visit What's Happening at [www.merrimack.edu](http://www.merrimack.edu)**

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## Alternative Spring Break Helps the Needy – Rewards the Givers

*by Marie DeMarco*

When students and their advisors on Alternative Spring Break traveled to Tijuana, they visited a small two-room hut where they met a grandmother who cared for her four grandchildren and their mother, a recovered drug addict who, because of years of drug abuse, was left incapable of caring for her children. When the Merrimack group saw the severe poverty and the lack of food, they fished through their own pockets and managed to collect \$67 to purchase groceries for the family.

This is just one of the experiences that those on Alternative Spring Break encountered. This year, 76 students volunteered to help the underprivileged in eight locations across the country and in Mexico. Seventeen individuals volunteered their time to serve as advisors for the students: Rev. Scott Ness, O.S.A., Study Abroad; Sr. Elaine Polcari, S.N.D., Campus Ministry; Rev. Rick Piatt, O.S.A., Campus Ministry; Melissa Cote, Resident Life; husband-wife team Alicia Dunphy Culp, Student

Activities and Bryan Dunphy Culp, First Year Experience; Maura Shaffer, ESL; Charline Henry, Campus Ministry; Carol Leibovitz, Study Abroad; Sue Brien, Co-op Education; and Mark Ouellette, Institutional Advancement. They were joined by others in the Merrimack community: Trustee Lynn Potoff '76; Merrimack alumni Keith Foisy '01, Frank Collopy '56 and Emilie Collopy '53; and Augustinian volunteers Nancy Ata and Peter Sterk.

What drives people to volunteer to live under such poor conditions for a week? The reasons are threefold for Lynn Potoff: As a member of the board of trustees and chair of the student life committee, Potoff saw it as an opportunity to connect more with students. She wanted Merrimack students to see her as approachable and open to questions about her role as a board member.

"Hopefully, this experience will encourage students to return to Merrimack after graduation – to give back a little." Secondly, noted Potoff,



Students construct a wheelchair trail on a Navaho Indian reservation in Window Rock, Arizona. In two-and-a-half days, they completed a trail that would have taken months to build.

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## Alternative Spring Break

"It was a wonderful feeling to know that you had been able to help others in some small way." Lastly, as an undergraduate student in the 70s, Potoff wanted to go on an Alternative Spring Break trip to Kentucky but her mother nixed the idea, believing it was too dangerous. "It took many years, but I got my wish. I did an Alternative Spring Break to the Bronx." She added, "The whole experience was wonderful. It was more than giving out of my pocket; it was giving of myself and my time."

## Merrimack Hosts Summer Transportation Institute

The Department of Civil Engineering hosted the first U.S. Department of Transportation-sponsored Summer Transportation Institute (STI) in Massachusetts from June 27 to July 23 at Merrimack. High school students interested in learning more about transportation-related careers participated in the program, which addresses critical declines in the nation's transportation professional workforce. STI seeks to increase the numbers and diversity of young people entering transportation professions.

Merrimack joined 43 other host sites across the nation in providing high school students exposure to academic and practical experiences designed to motivate them toward professions in the transportation industry. The program provides the students with mathematical, scientific, technological and personal enrichment to enable them to pursue careers in the transportation industry. It also introduces participants to college life and provides them with tools on how best to prepare it.

"Transportation is one of the fundamental reasons we are who we are as a nation. This program addresses a crisis

in our transportation industry, and it provides an awesome opportunity for our future leaders to learn, to make new friends, and to have fun," said Gary Spring, chair, assistant dean, Civil Engineering.

## Math and Science Camp Challenges Students

By Kayla Riccio

In the science labs of the Mendel Center earlier this summer, students ages ten to twelve were given a kit consisting of a pencil, clay, a pin, glue, plastic drinking straws, a paper plate, and scissors. An odd combination of objects to an observer, but to the students and the Merrimack student teachers, their mission was clear - build a working weather barometer. When testing out their weather instruments they discovered that the sticky July afternoon wasn't cooperating with the experiment, but tied in perfectly with their earlier lessons on humidity.

This is just one of the components of the first summer camp of the Lawrence Math and Science Partnership at Merrimack College for approximately 100 Lawrence middle school students. The goal of the camp's curricula is to open the world of science and math to students and relate it to future career choices in those fields. The summer camp, as well as the 20-week, after-school program throughout the school year, are made possible by a three-year grant to the college to support a Higher Education Learn and Serve America Program funded by the U.S. Government Corporation for National and Community Service.

Along with the weather instruments, the students also built and raced their own boats, learned about the mathematics behind the art of origami, learned about fitness and designed their own fitness program.

Merrimack students, who served as the camp counselors, facilitated the learning process through the activities and experiments and by asking questions to enhance the academic component of the activity. Some of the



Photo by Neal Hamberg

Compass work was one component of Merrimack's Lawrence Math and Science summer camp.

Merrimack student teachers became involved in the summer camp because they participated in the tutoring program that the partnership was founded on; however, many of the others are science and math majors looking to share their passions.

Danielle Crowley, a health science major at Merrimack, was impressed by the children's creativity and enthusiasm, especially while they were building the junk box boats, powered only by balloons and rubber bands. Sports medicine major, Matt Lovett, was impressed by the students' willingness to try out the various exercises in a health and fitness program designed by Merrimack's Sports Medicine Department. Although Lovett does not want to pursue teaching as a career, he found the experience rewarding. He said, "It gives you a different perspective to work from in life."

Many of the children who participated in this year's camp say they hope to pursue math or science in college. One girl loves animals and wishes to become a veterinarian. Another wants to study science because his father always wanted to, but did not have the opportunity.

Building weather vanes in Mendel lab 271, the children discovered a new world ready for them to embrace. ■

## Girard Named Alumnus of Year

The 2004 Alumnus-of-the-Year award was presented to Francis Girard '62, who has a long track record of support and commitment to Merrimack College and its students. The award, presented at the Reunion dinner, is based on nominations by fellow alumni and college staff and is presented to an individual who has shown extraordinary devotion to Merrimack College and its future.

"Despite the many fine individuals who deserve this honor, one particular individual stood out as this year's honoree," said President Richard J. Santagati. "Over the last year and several years, our recipient has certainly shown extraordinary devotion through his generosity of time, spirit and sheer will to get things accomplished. Frank Girard leads by example - he is generous and encourages those all around him to share their time and commitment to Merrimack College."

Girard has been involved with Alumni Relations, has served as a mentor to students, has given lectures and time to our students and most recently has provided leadership with the St. Augustine Society.

"He never hesitates to open his home - or his heart - when the need is there," continued Santagati.

It was Girard's gift of \$2.5 million in 2000 to Merrimack, the largest alumni contribution in the college's history, that established the Francis E. Girard School of Business and International Commerce. The Girard School is currently seeking the prestigious AACSB accreditation.

Girard is the retired chief executive officer of Converse Network Systems, a subsidiary of Converse Technology, a fortune 500 telecommunications company.

**"He never hesitates to open his home - or his heart - when the need is there."**



Photo by Frank Leone

Frank Girard (right) accepts award from President Richard J. Santagati.

## Andiamo!



Merrimack alumni and friends enjoyed the sights and delights of the French and Italian Riviera during this spring's alumni trip. The group paused for a photo before heading out for further adventures.

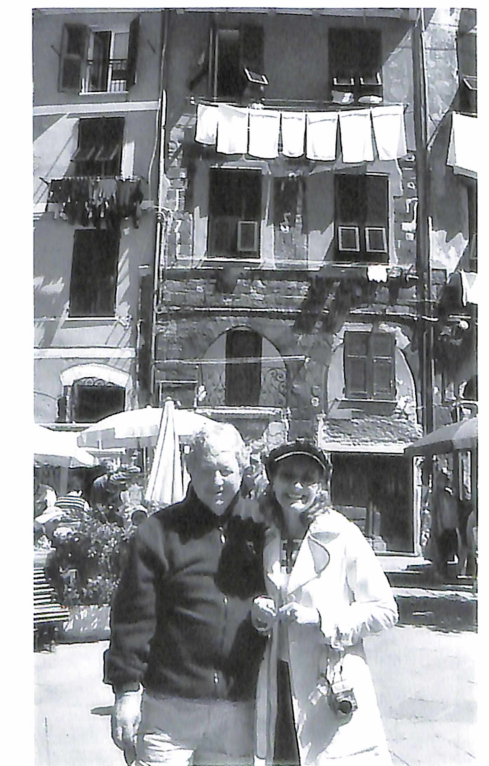


Photo by Mona Vega

Terry Monahan '66, owner of House of Travel and Liz Maghiozzi, director of alumni relations, took in the sights in Italy.



## REUNION 2004

See more Reunion photos at  
[www.merrimack.edu](http://www.merrimack.edu)



The Class of 1954 presented a gift of \$110,000 to Merrimack College on the occasion of their 50th year reunion. (Left to right) Tony Colucci, Charlie Wesson, Rose Di Stefano, Tony Fragala and President Richard J. Santagati, who accepted the check on behalf of the college.



Members of past classes rediscovered the treasure of Merrimack and rekindled friendships during their reunion.



Children of alumni enjoyed some special treats at this year's Reunion. Arts and crafts, and balloon animals were a big hit on the lawn near the Moseley Bridge.

### THE TIM SHEA MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, September 13, 2004 –

Merrimack Golf Club, Methuen, Massachusetts

Tim Shea '89 passed away after a long and courageous battle with Hodgkins Disease in 1999, leaving his wife Kathy, parents John and Jan, sisters Mary and Ellen and brother Michael. The golf tournament celebrates Tim's life and joins in the fight against cancer. All proceeds will benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Tim, a native of Auburn, Mass., graduated from Merrimack College with a B.S. in marketing. Tim was the owner and president of the Pixel Link Corporation in Hudson, Mass.

### Join Us !

\$100.00 per ticket for Golfers

\$20.00 per ticket for Non-golfers

8:00 A.M. Shotgun Start

(Maximum 144 Golfers)

Tickets include Golf Shirt (1st 80 registrants prior to registration deadline of August 15th), Coffee and Donuts (7:30 A.M.), Green Fees, Golf Carts, Lunch - sausage at turn and steak dinner at end.

If you would like to play in the tournament, please contact:  
John Bowab (978) 764-2447/ Bowab@rell.com or Warren McKeon (603) 791-6646/Warren.McKeon@FMR.com.

TIM SHEA  
Memorial Golf  
Tournament

## Become involved with Bellesini Academy

Alumni are forging friendships with the students from the Bellesini Academy, a Catholic middle school for boys sponsored by Merrimack College, by hosting a birthday party each month to recognize the special days of students. They also provide a gift for each student – a book that they can donate back to their own library if they choose. The birthday parties are a great way to celebrate friendships and foster a sense of community among alumni and the students of Bellesini Academy.

The school is also looking for alumni who have knowledge of the admissions process for private high schools to assist the students of Bellesini Academy as they begin to apply to private high schools themselves. Individuals are needed to assist with researching various schools, completing forms, conducting mock interviews and offering advice and mentoring.

Individuals interested in helping in these capacities, or in any way, at the Bellesini Academy, should call Kathy Marshall '94 at 978-837-5107.

### Join Us at Regional Events !

#### Calling all New Yorkers!

Although you may be out of sight, you are never out of mind. Regional alumni events are being planned in the New York City area by Merrimack alumni, and we'd like to see you there.

The first NYC area event will be in August. Details of events will be sent via e-mail. If Merrimack does not have your e-mail address, please send it along with your updated home and work addresses to [alumnirelations@merrimack.edu](mailto:alumnirelations@merrimack.edu).

Additionally, if you would like to work with Alumni Relations to start your own regional club in your area, contact Liz Magliozzi, director of Alumni Relations, at 978-837-5136.

For NYC area events, contact either:

Sheila Fuller '96  
212-420-9252  
[sheila\\_fuller@excite.com](mailto:sheila_fuller@excite.com)

Bob Isacco '94  
201-626-3840  
[alex025@yahoo.com](mailto:alex025@yahoo.com)

### ALUMNI UPCOMING EVENTS – 2004

#### FRESHMAN ORIENTATION

Saturday, September 4

If you would like to be an alumni volunteer, please call 978-837-5508.

#### RED SOX GAME VS. TEXAS RANGERS

Saturday, September 4

1:20 p.m., Fenway Park, \$44 per ticket

#### BUSINESS BREAKFAST SPEAKER SERIES

Wednesday, September 15

Guest Speaker, Kelly Lange – NBC Anchor Reporter

7:30 a.m., Murray Lounge, Sakowich Campus Center

Full buffet breakfast

#### ALUMNI COUNCIL NEW MEMBER SOCIAL

Thursday, September 23

6:00 p.m., at the home of Ann (Previtali) O'Sullivan '74 – Andover, Mass.

#### PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL EVENT

Thursday, September 9

Maggiano's Little Italy restaurant

Alumni Reception, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

#### HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Saturday, October 2

9:00 a.m. – Alumni Council Mass, Taylor Chapel, Sakowich Center

9:30 a.m. – Full Alumni Council meeting

12:00 p.m. – Golf Cart Parade

12:30 p.m. – MerrimAction event celebrating 40 years

1:00 p.m. – Football game

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. – Alumni Academic Reception,

Mendel, O'Reilly and Sullivan buildings

Evening entertainment, TBD

#### ALUMNI AND FRIENDS NIGHT AT MCGUIRK'S IRISH PUB

(Erin McGuirk '91/ family owned)

Saturday, October 16 – 7:00 p.m.

95 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, Hampton, N.H.

Live entertainment, appetizers and fun! – \$15 per person

#### ALUMNI CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thursday, December 2

6:00 -9:00 p.m. – State Room (formerly the Bay Tower Room)

60 State Street, Boston

**Alumni Relations 978-837-5000 ext 4511.  
Visit [www.merrimack.edu](http://www.merrimack.edu) at Alumni and  
Friends for additional calendar announcements.**



**BASEBALL**

A strong finish highlighted the 2004 baseball season for first-year coach Joe Sarno. The Warriors won nine of their last 12 games to finish the 2004 season with an overall record of 18-24, the highest win total for the program since the 1999 season. The Warriors went 15-17 in league play, narrowly missing a berth in the Northeast-10 Conference playoffs. A pair of freshmen and a sophomore earned Northeast-10 All-Conference Third Team honors for the Warriors.

**MEN'S LACROSSE**

The Warriors finished 6-7 overall and 5-5 record in conference action, advancing to the 2004 Northeast-10 Tournament. Head coach Ryan Polley earned a pair of major awards in his first year as head coach of the Merrimack men's lacrosse program (see related article on this page).

**SOFTBALL**

It was another successful year for Merrimack softball as the program made its 12th NCAA Regional appearance and advanced to the final game of the regional tournament. The Warriors finished the 2004 season with an overall record of 35-18 and went 20-8 in league play for a third place finish in the Northeast-10 Conference. The Warriors swept six of their 14 NE-10 opponents in 2004.

**WOMEN'S LACROSSE**

For the second time in school history, first-year head coach Katie Lambert led the Warriors to the Northeast-10 Conference semifinals. Merrimack closed out the season by winning seven out of its last nine games for a school record 10 wins. Sophomore Alison Colarusso also set a school record for goals in a season, as she scored 61 times in 16 games. Colarusso added 12 assists for 73 points, the second highest point total in a season.

*A huge banner now hangs on the exterior of the Volpe Athletic Center in recognition of the outstanding championship season of the women's basketball team this year. The 14 x 20, four color banner includes the team's mantra, "One Team, One Heart."*

**WOMEN'S TENNIS**

One of the best careers in school history came to an end in 2004 as senior Haven Wynne closed out her four-year career. Wynne posted an 8-3 mark at No. 1 singles and combined with sophomore Meghan Weller at No. 1 doubles for a 10-1 record this season. Wynne was a Third Team All-Northeast-10 Conference selection as a single competitor and a First Team All-Conference performer at doubles with Weller. First-year head coach Chris Stevens' squad posted an 8-3 record this year.

**MEN'S TENNIS**

Senior Mike Pearson and freshman Dan Hrobak combined for seven individual wins this season. Pearson posted three victories at his No. 2 singles position, while Hrobak added four wins at No. 3 singles. The two combined at No. 2 doubles to post a 2-5 mark for the Warriors. The Warriors, under first-year head coach Chris Stevens, posted a 9-0 win over American International in the second match of the season.



## Polley Earns All-New England Honors

Men's lacrosse head coach Ryan Polley earned All-New England honors for the 2004 season. He was named the New England Coach of the Year, the second Coach of the Year award he garnered in his first season with the team.



Coach Ryan Polley

In addition to being named New England Coach of the Year, Polley was also named the Northeast-10 Conference Coach of the Year. Polley led the Warriors to a 6-7 mark overall and a 5-5 record in conference action. The Warriors also advanced to the 2004 Northeast-10 Tournament. Polley becomes the first head coach to collect multiple awards. As a player at Merrimack, Polley was named the 2000 Northeast-10 Conference Tournament Most Valuable Player, while leading the Warriors to their only Northeast-10 Conference Tournament title. ■

**2004-2005  
fall and winter  
sports schedule  
now online at  
[www.merrimack.edu](http://www.merrimack.edu)**

**M56**

Members of the Civil Engineering (CE) Class of 1956 recently got together at the home of **Frank Collopy**. Six of nine were present; one member is deceased. The CE Class of 1956 was the second graduating class of civil engineers from Merrimack.



From left to right, they are: Frank Collopy, Methuen, Mass.; Dave Moynihan, New Brunswick, N.J.; Don Chabot, Mashpee, Mass.; Ed Collins, Swampscott, Mass.; Bob Joubert, Methuen, Mass.; and Bill Fanning, Beverly, Mass. Missing from the photo are: J. Kevin Burns, of Portland Me., and Joe Spano of Carlsbad, Calif. and Edward Fitzgerald (deceased), formerly of Groveland Mass. Ed's wife, Patricia '56, was also in attendance at the impromptu gathering, along with some of the other wives.

**M61**

**Michael Ohanian** was recently honored by the State Engineering University of Armenia where he introduced Bar Coding and Radio Frequency Identification Technology (RFID). He is the retired president of Intermec Technologies in Everett, Washington, the largest bar code company in the global industrial market. An electrical engineer by profession, he is a leading expert in microelectronics and AIT technologies and holds numerous patents. He is knowledgeable in the Russian AIT marketplace and serves as a member on the Board of Trustees of Merrimack College. He is also the RFID Technology Advisor to several U.S. and Canadian companies.

**M63**

**Donald Gallant** is seeking his fifth consecutive three-year term for the school committee in Hamilton-Wenham (Mass.).

**Bernie Smith** retired from Merrimack College this year after 31 years of service. He spent nearly 28 years of that time as director of Human Resources, working under the guidance of each of the college's five presidents. He and his wife recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

**M69**

**Christine (Scanlon) Monaco** is seeking re-election to the school committee in Burlington, Mass.

**Margaret "Peggy" Toomey** is the city clerk for Haverhill, Mass. She has spent much of her working life in state government, most recently as an internship program coordinator for the Massachusetts State Legislature.

**M70**

**John Butler** has held the head coaching job at Marlborough (Mass.) High School for the past 18 years.

**Carol M. Green** has joined the Department of Anesthesiology at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore, Md.

**M71**

**John J. Foley** is a mortgage originator at the Bay State Saving Bank in Worcester, Mass.

**John S. Shea** was ordained as a permanent deacon in the Diocese of Providence, R.I. after earning a master's degree in religious studies from Providence College. He has been assigned by the Bishop of Providence to St. Mary's Parish in Charlestown, R.I.

**M72**

**Suzanne Columbus Van Pelt** was awarded a master of library & information science degree from Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich.

**M74**

**Captain Stephen P. Garrity** of the U.S. Coast Guard recently assumed command of the Portland Head Light in Fort Williams Park, Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

**M76**

**Barry Begley** was promoted to manager of Post Office operations for the 018-019 zip code area of the Massachusetts Postal District.

**Attorney Scott F. Gleason** has been named Member of the Year at Haverhill (Mass.) Country Club.



## CLASS NOTES

**Dave McGillivray** and a team of nine other New Englanders ran 3,372 miles in a relay from San Francisco to Boston's Fenway Park in 24 days this spring. McGillivray founded TREK USA – Charity Relay for Kids – and raised funds for several local children's charities: the Jimmy Fund; the Red Auerbach Youth Foundation; the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism; the Cam Neely Foundation for Cancer Care, and the DMSE Foundation. The team ran through 12 states as they made their way cross country. McGillivray founded McGillivray Sports Enterprises, which has produced or consulted on more than 700 athletic events throughout the world. He is the director of the Boston Marathon, which attracts 20,000 runners from all over the world.

**William Pillsbury Jr.** is the economic development and planning director for the city of Haverhill, Mass.

### M77

**Jayne (Viladenis) Rotsko** became the new principal at the Rupert A Nock Middle School in Newburyport, Mass. on July 1, 2004.

### M80

**Dave Sheils** is seeking re-election to the Stoneham School Committee, Stoneham, Mass.

### M81

**Eugene P. O'Donnell Jr.** has joined the law firm of Fletcher, Tilton & Whipple, Worcester, Mass., where he will focus his practice on domestic relations law.

**Dave Pasquarello** was recently featured as a "Local Artist" on ABC TV in Portland, Maine.

**Stephanie Messina Sewade** is corporate benefits manager for DeMoulas Supermarkets, Inc., Tewksbury, Mass.

### M82

**Elisa Ritchie Fustolo** has completed an internship in counseling psychology at the Center for Health Resources, Woburn, Mass.

**James Guarino** has been awarded the Personal Financial Specialist credential by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. This credential recognizes CPAs with considerable professional experience in financial planning.

Jim resides in Wakefield, Mass. with his wife Lisa and their three children.

### M83

**Luanne Kirwin** is vice president of development & alumni relations for Emmanuel College.

**Paul Marasco** is seeking re-election to the planning board in Billerica, Mass.

**Donald W. Smith Jr.** has been elected to the Board of Corporators of Naugatuck Valley Savings and Loan in Naugatuck, Conn.

### M85

**Gino A. Cresta** is the director of public works for Swampscott, Mass. His responsibilities include maintaining all the water and sewer mains, roads, catch basins and other infrastructures in town.

**Ron Ploof** and his wife Tara and their two children live in Aliso Viejo, California. Ron and Tara are very active volunteers within their local parish, Corpus Christi Catholic Christian Community. Tara leads Lamplighters, Small Faith Group Ministry. Ron is Corpus Christi's Development Coordinator and is responsible for building the parish's first home, a 1,200 seat church and support buildings.

### M86

**Michael McCall** is seeking re-election to the board of selectmen in Chelmsford, Mass.

**Philip J. McGovern** has been hired by Mirick, O'Connell, DeMallie, & Lougee LLP, a law firm with offices in Worcester and Westboro, Mass. He is an associate in the litigation department in the Worcester office. His practice concentrates on commercial litigation.

**John O. Skidmore** has retired as a Coast Guard officer. He is presently employed as a communications engineer with MCI Telecommunications.

### M87

**Tom Boucher** serves as chairman of the New Hampshire Lodging & Restaurant Association (NHRLA). He is also a managing partner for T-Bones Great American Eatery and CJ's Great West Grill.

### M88

**Thomas Mahanna** is applying for a position on the Board of Health in Westford, Mass.

**Diane Boulanger Prescott** is the president and chief executive officer of Northeast Environmental Services, LLC, in Haverhill, Mass. She is a former Haverhill City Councilor, who received her M.B.A. from Southern New Hampshire College and attended the Massachusetts School of Law at Andover (Mass.).

### M90

**Peter Thomas Crowell** wrote his first fantasy-adventure book *Silverlance* and is currently promoting the book. He resides in San Francisco.

### M91

**Susan Bolster** is a candidate for the board of selectmen in Winthrop, Mass.

**Kathleen (Conway) Ritson** has joined the sales team at Century 21 in Woburn, Mass.

### M92

**Derek Doo** is partner/owner of the Virtus Group, R.I., which specializes in financial planning and managed money.

### M94

**Mike Gonzales** is commercial lending officer at Enterprise Bank and Trust Company.

**Kathy (Coughlin) Marshall** was one of the administrative marshals for Merrimack's 54th Commencement.

### M95

**Michael Nugent** is manager of Verizon Wireless' Braintree communication store. He is responsible for customer service, new sales, staffing, employee training, billing, sales forecasting, product and service merchandising, and inventory. He has been named a member of Verizon Wireless Winner's Circle for the last five years, an award distinction recognizing excellence in sales and customer service performance.

### M96

**Julie Harte Soldato** and her husband Brian recently purchased Jilly's Ice Cream and Miniature Golf in Pittsfield, Mass.

## CLASS NOTES

**Matthew Jordan** moved to Colorado after accepting a sales position with Anheuser – Busch. While working his way up the ranks to management he was promoted to Market Manager in charge of Southwestern and Northern Louisiana for Anheuser – Busch Breweries. His wife is a practicing psychotherapist. He also completed an eight-year enlistment contract and received an Honorable Discharge as Sergeant of the U.S. Marines in October of 2002.

### M97

**Heather (Stone) Barresi** is currently a special education preschool teacher in Wethersfield, Conn. She also runs programs for children with autism.

**Michael Barresi** will join Smith College as assistant professor in the Biology Department, beginning in January 2005.

**Brian J. LaGrasse** is the health inspector for Amesbury, Mass. His duties include handling health inspections, responding to residents, and working with the Board of Health.

### M98

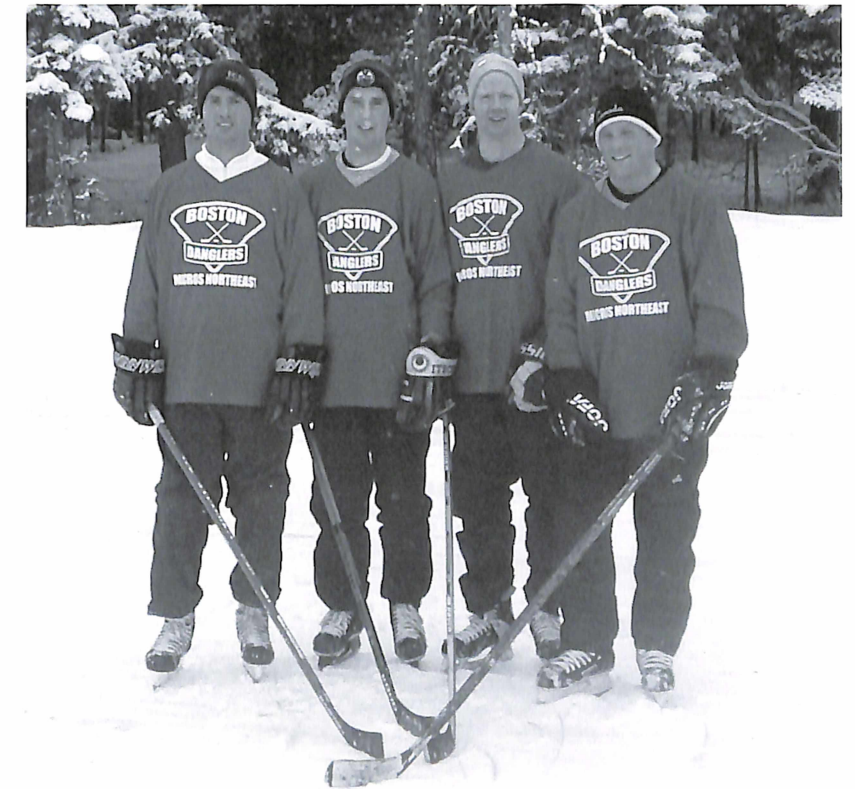
**Amy Dube Berard** earned a master's degree in education from Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, Ga.

**Michael Sullivan** is assistant vice president/controller for Enterprise Bank and Trust Company in Lowell, Mass. A two-year Enterprise veteran, he is engaged in managing all daily operational accounting functions.

### M99

**Angela McGriff** is general cashier/accounts payable assistant at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge, Mass. The Royal Sonesta is a part of Sonesta International, which also manages properties in Italy, Egypt, New Orleans, and Miami including the Trump International Sonesta Beach Resort at Sunny Isles, Fla.

**Michael Motzkin** is a candidate for Massachusetts state representative in the 9th Essex District, which includes the communities of Lynn, Lynnfield (Precinct 3), Saugus and Wakefield.



### Alumni Team are World Pond Hockey Champions

Back when it was the dead of winter, four alumni formed a team that now lies claim to a little heard title – World Pond Hockey Champions. The Boston Dancers, comprised of **Rob Atkinson '94**, **Mark Cornforht '95**, **Mark Goble '95** and **Cooper Naylor '94**, outplayed 80 other four-man teams from across North America in a small village in Plaster Rock, New Brunswick, 50 miles east of Presque Isle, Maine. The four met eight years ago while students and hockey team members for Merrimack College. Although they all still reside in the Boston area, the four were originally from Canada.

The annual tournament is a three-day event played outdoors on ice approximately three-quarters the size of a regulation hockey rink with few regulations. The tournament started three year ago as a way to raise money to replace Plaster Rock's only indoor ice rink. This year, the Boston Dancers dominated the tournament, capturing the wooden replica of the Stanley Cup as a trophy. They donated their \$200 in winnings back to the rink fund and promised they'll be back next year. We'll be watching!

### M00

**Jeremy Durant** has been promoted to manager of corporate education at University of California, San Diego. He administers on-site corporate training programs, primarily with local San Diego companies. He is also completing his M.B.A. at California State University, San Marcos.

### M01

**Michael Dagle** is the varsity boys' basketball coach for his alma mater, Billerica (Mass.) High School.

**James Johnson** is the assistant town administrator in Walpole, Mass.

### M02

**Sean Radley** received a master's degree in structural engineering from Northeastern University.

### M03

**David W. Lemay** serves as a volunteer working as an alternative representative to the non-governing organization at the United Nations in New York representing the Augustinian Order. He attends two briefings a week at the United Nations and reports to the Augustinian Friars. He

*continued on page 29*



## ALUMNI IN ACTION

## Many Battles Won *By Kayla Riccio*

**J**ohn R. Correiro '61 has spent most of his career as a catalyst for change; as superintendent of the Fall River, Mass. school system for 13 years, he implemented programs to improve the education system, particularly for that city's large student immigrant population. The road Correiro has followed has not been clear or unscathed. When asked how he prepared for the many obstacles that he faced as superintendent, he said Merrimack College built the spiritual strength he needed to persevere.

From 1980 to 1993, as superintendent, Correiro was nationally recognized for employing the first voluntary school-choice program for linguistic minorities, which provides equal access to school facilities, and balances the school population so students are not linguistically or racially isolated because of where they live. He also revised the curriculum, which improved students' test scores, created a decline in drop-out rates, and developed a long-term building plan to address the inequity of facilities among the various populations of Fall River.

"Of the 38 schools in Fall River, only five were acceptable buildings at the time and these buildings catered to the white upper-middle class students, whereas the rundown buildings housed most of the immigrant students," Correiro explained.

A highlight in his career as superintendent was building the Henry Lord Middle School, which he spent eight years fighting to bring to fruition.

"It was a battle every day," Correiro says. He was faced with the arduous tasks of battling legislation for an appropriate site, accruing the funding for building development, and at the same time being a voice for the students.

Now stands an impressive school, which accommodates 750 students grades 6-8, and includes four computer labs; 24 classrooms; six science labs; specialty spaces for art, music, home economics, wood-working and printing shops; and several bilingual and special needs classrooms. Of special pride to Correiro is the auditorium named in his honor – The John R. Correiro Auditorium – and dedicated on October 26, 2003. His son, Justin, graduated from Merrimack College in 2000 and is now an eighth grade teacher at that school.

Ever aware of the needs of immigrant students, Correiro says, "Cities are far more diverse than they've ever been. What was once a matter of just a couple of ethnic groups is now a multiplicity of ethnic groups with various languages, cultures and needs. Adjustments are necessary to both understand and integrate ethnic groups in our school systems."

Since early on in his career as a teacher in Fall River, Correiro has been instrumental in improving the health, welfare, and education of immigrant students, particularly those of the Portuguese population. He traveled to Portugal on a fact-finding mission to help improve the immigration process and establish pre-English class centers for students going to the United States. He was director of the National Assessment Dissemination Center for Bilingual Education at Lesley College from 1975 to 1980. He has served on numerous national committees that studied and explored education among immigrant populations.

After graduating Merrimack College with a degree in education, Correiro initially served as a newspaper reporter in Fall River and in Providence, Rhode Island. He went on to teach sixth grade and earned his master's degree in public administration at the University of Rhode Island in 1971.

While at Merrimack College, Correiro played basketball for the Warriors, wrote for the campus newspaper, and led the Phi Kappa Beta fraternity as president. Today, he keeps in touch with many of his fellow alumni, and in 2003 went on the college's Pellegrinaggio trip to Italy.

Today, Correiro continues his mission at Brown University where he is director of the New England Desegregation Assistance Center Alliance, heading desegregation efforts around New England and focusing on school systems in Brockton, Mass.; Pawtucket, R.I.; and Hartford, Conn.

"Merrimack was very important in preparing me to deal with the many challenges I have faced and continue to face in life," said Correiro. "I feel that my education at Merrimack gave me the faith and spiritual strength to face and cope with everything in life."



John R. Correiro '61

also works as an assistant gym and computer teacher at St. Nicholas of Tolentine School in the Bronx and volunteers at St. Mary Immaculate Conception School in Lawrence, Mass.

**Kristopher Ventresco** ran a half marathon in Bermuda in January 2004, finishing eleventh of 441 runners with a time of 1 hour, 22 minutes, and 9 seconds. Runners from all over the world competed, including Kenya. Ventresco received a plaque for finishing second in his age category. This was his first half marathon. While at Merrimack, he was a member of the cross country and track teams, and president of the Italian Club.

## MARRIAGES

**JOHN S.D. HAMEL JR. '82** and Cristina R. Daly at St. John's Anglican Church, Harbour Island, Bahamas, May 8, 2004, by **Rev. George R. Morgan, O.S.A. '61**.

**KAREN DEFONZO '90** and Thomas Cross at St. Agnes Church, Reading, Mass., November 29, 2003. Alumni at the wedding included **Darline (Thorpe) Yatim '90** and **Maura (McDonald) Hughes '90**.

**EDWARD CROWLEY '91** and Laurie Manville at St. Ann's Church, Hull, Mass.

**JOSEPH P. SULLIVAN '92** and Amy E. Cashman at St. John the Baptist Church.

**JENNIFER GLEASON '93** and Lennon Schroeder at Watch Hill Beach, October 4, 2003.

**JOLINE A. ROMANO '93** and Eric P. Pepper at the Union Congregational Church, North Reading, Mass., July 19, 2003.

**ANGELA RIVARD '94** and James V. Ryan at the Church of Our Saviour, Brookline, Mass., October 18, 2003.

**JAMES KINKELA '95** and Melisa Potty at St. Thomas Chapel, Falmouth, Mass., August 1, 2003.

**KRISTOPHER LISAUSKAS '96** and Sara Dill at St. James Church, Rocky Hill, Conn., May 8th, 2004. Alumni attending included: **Kevin Coughlin '93, Kathleen**

**(Coughlin) Marshall '94, Greg '95 and Gail (Goddard) Farrington '96, Colleen (Hennessy) Irving '96, Kim (Mason) Phillips '96, Melissa Smith '96, Stacy White '96, Matt and Erika (Walsh) Fitzpatrick '96, Mike and Jenn (Rigas) Kane '96, Julie (DiSciullo) Kelleher '96, Shawn Reddish '96, Alesandra Giuggio '96, Dan Reid '96, Byron Magrane '96, Ed O'Brien '97, Nick Giordano '97 and Eric Backman '97.**

**TRICIA GESWELL '97** and John LaFauci at Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher, Merrimack College, by Rev. Richard Piatt, O.S.A., on April 3, 2004. Alumni attending included: **Andrea Lacasky '97, Nancy (Potter) Geswell '93, Beth Blankenship '97, Jennifer DiPrizio '97, Danielle (Ouellette) Athanasiadis '97, Erin (Edmondson) Fazio '97, Bryan Fazio '96, Melissa Wakeham '97, James Gaffney '98, Pam Sosnowski '94, Kristen Hann '97 and Marco D'Andrea '07.**

**MELANIE MORLEY '97 AND KEVIN FOLEY '97** at St. Michael's Church, North Andover, August 16, 2002. Alumni attending included: **Cheri (Adams) La Monica '97, Paul La Monica '97, Kelly Hourihan '97, Kristen Colozzi '97, Kara (Savinelli) Keegan '94, Dominique Savinelli '93, John Foley Jr '70, Bryan Gallagher '97, Heather (Stone) Barresi '97 and Michael Barresi '97, Staci (Gersh) Afthim '99, Mark Afthim '98, Erica (De Simone) Capogreco '98, Stephen Greaney '70, Janis Tunstall '70.**

**ELISIA ROBER '97** and Joseph Azzarone Jr. at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Natick, Mass.

**CHRISTINE FARROW '98** and Jason Steiner at Sacred Hearts Parish, Haverhill, Mass.

**JENNIFER HULSE '98** and James Dobbs at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Bay Shore, N.Y., August 24, 2003.

**JULIE MACCARONE '98** and Jamie Souliotis at the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher, April 24, 2004. Alumni attending included: **Nancy Thompson '98, Gina Aloisi '99, Sierra McGregor '98, Jen (Brown) Doyle '99, Tim Adams '97, Brian Smith '97, Alicia Smith '99, Maria Ducas '99, Shannon Fouhey '98, and the bride's mom, Barbara (Jordan) Maccarone '56.**

**JAMES M. McNIFF '98** and Anne M. Henry at the Immaculate Conception Chapel, Brewster, Mass., October 4, 2003.

**KIMBERLY COSTANZO '99** and **MICHAEL POTVIN '99** at St. Michael's Church, North Andover, April 17, 2004.

**LISA MCCARTHY '99** and Robert J. Dumont Jr. at St. James, Haverhill, Mass. on October 4, 2003.

**CATHERINE PATSOURAKOS '99** and Salvatore La Rosa at the Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church, Lowell, Mass., August 24, 2003.

**RONNI RICKER '99** and **GLEN SUMMERTON '93** at Holy Angels Church, Plaistow, N.H.

**ANNE-MARIE DRISCOLL '00** and Leonard Roux at Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher, Merrimack College, November 1, 2003.

**JAMES W. HOWARD '00** and Diane Lee Lampman.

**BETHANY J. PIRE '01** and **BRIAN J. BOYLE '00** at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Essex, Mass., May 31, 2003.

**CHARLIE CLEMENT '02** and Joanna Rheume at All Saints Parish.

**BRIAN MORRISON '03** and Lisa DiMente at First Parish Church, Bedford, Mass. April 24, 2004.

## NEW ARRIVALS

**STEPHANIE MESSINA SEWADE '81** adopted a daughter, Gabrielle Josephine Sewade.

**STEPHEN GODEK '85** and wife Dawn, a daughter, Mary Elizabeth, June 30, 2003. She joins sisters Sarah and Rachel.

**CHRIS METCALFE '85**, twins, a son Brett Woodford and a daughter, Riley Anne, September 19, 2003. They join a sister Erin.

**MAURA (GALVIN) JONES '86** and husband Gregg, a son, Aidan Jones, September 6, 2002. He joins brother Dolan.



## CLASS NOTES

**PETER QUINE '87** and wife Margaret, a daughter, Sophie Moynihan, March 23, 2004. She joins brother Luke.

**CHRISTINE FAGAN POPSON '88** and husband Michael, a son, Andrew James, April 25, 2004. He joins sister Kaitlyn.

**DIANE BOULANGER PRESCOTT '88** adopted a son, Nicholas Argeo Prescott. He joins a brother David Albert and a sister Alexandra Diane.

**ANDREW SHANNON '88** and wife Sally, a son, Andrew John Shannon, April 28, 2004.

**NICHOLAS CATINO '89** and **SANDI (MILLER) CATINO '91**, a son, Joshua Lee, September 16, 2003. He joins sister Nicole Angela, 4.

**DEBBIE (CRAM) ELLIS '89**, a son, Logan Hunter, April 5, 2004.

**LYNNE (MONAGHAN) PARR '90** and husband Chris, a daughter, Hannah Elisabeth, July 24, 2003.

**SCOTT GREEN '91** and wife Jennifer, a daughter, Emily, March 2, 2004. She joins brother Alexander.

**STEPHEN CURRAN '92** and wife Melissa, a son, Tyler Stephen, March 26, 2004. He joins brother Casey.

**DEREK DOO '92** and wife Lisa, a daughter, Ashley Celeste. She joins her two brothers Justin and Ryan.

**ANN (ABEL) JACOBSMEIER '92** and husband Steve, a son, Ryan Patrick, April 20, 2004. He joins brother Garrett.

**LINDA (CARLTON) HENDERSON '93** and **JAMES HENDERSON '91**, a son, Jace Carlton, October 31, 2003.

**SUSAN (IANNELLI) MAKROS '93** and husband David Makros, a son, Andrew David, March 23, 2004.

**KERRI SHEERAN '93** and husband Tim, a son Jack Thomas, July 17, 2003. He joins brother Timothy.

**LAURA (MICHALISIN) CHAN '94** and husband James, a daughter, Alexa Marie, January 3, 2004.

**KAREN (MAX) GAUDETTE '94** and **CHRIS GAUDETTE '95**, a daughter, Riley Christine, April 15, 2004. She joins sister Lindsey.

**MICHELE (PANZINO) IMBESI '94** a son Joseph Anthony, December 27, 2003. He joins brothers Andrew and Evan.

**ELIZABETH (WHOOLEY) KILKENNY '94** and husband Robert, a son, Liam John, January 30, 2004. He joins brother Robert.

**KAREN (WALLACE) NAYLOR '94** and **COOPER NAYLOR '94**, a daughter, Jane Alice, December 9, 2003. She joins sister Caroline.

**HEATHER (STONE) BARRESI '97** and **MICHAEL BARRESI '97** a son, Jonah Halpin, April 16, 2004. He joins brother Samuel Stone.

**MELANIE ( MORLEY) FOLEY '97** and **KEVIN M. FOLEY '97** a daughter, Keira Meghan, March 17, 2004.

**JULIE (MARSH) TAGLIAMONTE '97** and husband Paul, a son, Christian David, March 15, 2004.

**KELLIE (SHEA) DiFILIPPO '98** and **PAUL DiFILIPPO '96**, a daughter, Maria Kathleen, June 7, 2003.

## DEATHS

**James J. MILLERICK '51** of Stoneham, Mass., died January 9, 2004. He was a member of the first graduating class of Merrimack College. He received a bachelor of science degree and majored in marketing.

**Rev. James J. HESSION '54** of Lowell, Mass., died January 27, 2004. Ordained by Boston Cardinal Richard Cushing on February 2, 1959, at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston, he served as curate at St. Michael's Church in North Andover from 1959 to 1963. He later studied in

Belgium at Louvain University, and became a chaplain at the University of Lowell, now part of UMass Lowell. In the 1980s, he was assigned to St. Agnes Church in Arlington (Mass.), where he oversaw the restoration of the church, and was active with the Fideles House for Seniors.

**Reginald A. OUELLETTE '54** of Lowell, Mass., died April 3, 2004. An employee of the city of Lowell, he began his career with the Lowell Redevelopment Authority in 1963 as director of the Relocation Office in the Northern Canal Urban Renewal Project. He served in the Planning Department and retired from the city after nearly 29 years of service.

**F. James WELCH '54** of Marblehead, Mass., died March 5, 2004. Until his retirement, he was employed for many years in his family's construction business, James J. Welch, Inc., which was established by his grandfather.

**John J. BURKE, Jr. '60** of Lynn, Mass., died April 17, 2004. He was deputy chief administrator to former Massachusetts house Speaker Thomas McGee for many years until his retirement in 1981. He was previously employed by the State Insurance Commission. He was a senior member of the Lynn Board of Appeals having served for more than 30 years.

**Gerald E. BORGAL '64** of Chatham, Mass. and Naples, Fla., died April 9, 2004. He was chief executive officer at N.E. Rehabilitation Hospital in Woburn (Mass.) for many years and was previously hospital administrator at University Hospital in Boston.

**David T. MERCHANT '65** of Bow, New Hampshire, died May 12, 2004. He was vice president of finance at Dartmouth Printing Co. in Hanover (N.H.) for 11 years and a teacher at Rivier College (Nashua, N.H.) for several years.

**Mary Ellen O' RORKE '73** of Cincinnati, Ohio, and formerly of Haverhill, Mass., died January 12, 2004. She was employed at Western Electric for 10 years and then moved to Cincinnati where she was the director of the Medical Technology

Program at Christ Hospital for 17 years. She was employed at Health Alliances in Cincinnati.

**Philip J. CHRISTIAN '78** of Dracut, Mass., died March 23, 2004. He was a computer engineer at Raytheon's Tewksbury (Mass.) plant.

**Lillian M. BUCKLEY '86** of Wilmington, Mass., died February 23, 2004. Prior to her retirement in 1999, Mrs. Buckley had been the executive director of the Burlington Housing Authority for 10 years. She previously was the executive director of the Wilmington Housing Authority. Mrs. Buckley was a member and past president of the Merrimack College Alumni Council and a member of the Wilmington Sons of Italy.

**Laurie E. CONTI '91** of Raynham died February 26, 2002. She volunteered at the Andover Animal Hospital and raised funds for N.E.A.D.S. and C.C.I., both service dogs organizations. She was a spokesperson for Service Dogs Awareness. She was president of the Laurie Conti Foundation for Animals with Cancer and the National Cancer Support Group for Animals.

## CLASS NOTES

### In Memoriam

Dr. Walter E. Maxey (Associate Professor MA/CS, 1977-1999)

By James E. Henderson '91

Although now obsolete, all the computer science students would jockey to use the new, large, color DEC VT240 terminals in 1987. As a freshman working on a FORTRAN assignment, I refused to yield to upperclassmen in the Computer Graphics class, who had preferred status to use these terminals. Dr. Maxey overheard the altercation and intervened: "Look, clown, I'm not going to ask you again to move to another terminal!" I skulked away as my classmates asked, "Don't you know that he's teaching our Assembly Language class next year?" I was so dead.

It never turned out that way. No grudge was held against my behavior. It was not unusual to see him stroll into the computer lab, often wearing his tan trench coat. He made it a regular habit to see how his students were doing while working on an assignment.

Dr. Maxey held both himself and his students to high standards. He returned assignments and exams with rapid turnaround, often the next class. Assignments were handed back, marked up with con-

structive criticism in red pen. The detail he would put into correcting the assignments was amazing, even noting spelling errors in the comments of source code! Having taught evening courses at the college level, I don't know how he had time to do it all!

He had a good sense of humor, often ribbing the students, or making bad puns. For some reason, this one still sticks in my mind: How do you catch a unique rabbit? U-nique up on him! Ugh! If you had Dr. Maxey, you're probably groaning right now, too!

Dr. Maxey passed away on June 3, 2003. I've been in touch with other alumni, and it saddens us all. We were fortunate to know him and be under his tutelage, if even for a short time. I speak for myself, but I'm sure many would agree: He was an individual in my life who shaped the person I am today (even with my freshman year confrontation).

*An effort is underway to establish the Walter E. Maxey Award for a deserving Merrimack student. More information on how you can help can be found at [www.maxeyaward.org](http://www.maxeyaward.org) or e-mail to [info@maxeyaward.org](mailto:info@maxeyaward.org); [info@warriorhockey.com](mailto:info@warriorhockey.com) or [pldurante@comcast.net](mailto:pldurante@comcast.net).*

### Retired Physics Professor Dies by Marie DeMarco

Dr. Benjamin Cogen, retired associate professor of physics, died on March 20, 2004, at home. Many remember him for his dedication and high expectations of the Merrimack students and his brilliant mathematical mind; others remember the gentle musician who was instrumental in bringing classical music to the campus.

A renaissance man of sorts, Dr. Cogen was a talented amateur violinist who loved performing with the Indian Hill Orchestra, which performed locally. He also organized the Afternoon Concert Series, bringing free classical music concerts to the Merrimack College community. "There would be no music program

here (at Merrimack) if he had not fought for concerts, teaching and respect of our art," said David Sears, associate professor in the Fine Arts Department. He added, "Ben made this college musically aware. His performances on the Sunday series were often of works that are rarely done but of great musical worth; performances that drew people from all over the Boston area because they were so special."

According to his son, David, Dr. Cogen was a man with varied interests at which he excelled. Occasionally he taught random courses such as navigation, photography, and music, and directed a drama collaboration of the *Three-Penny Opera* with

Merrimack students and the Indian Hill Orchestra. An avid boater and camper, he spent time each summer in Bar Harbor, Maine.

Hired as an assistant professor of physics in 1960, he was promoted to associate professor in 1969. Over the years, he served as chair of the Physics Department during several academic years.

He is survived by his wife, Irene; son, David '83 and daughter, Ellen, whose vocals he accompanied on his violin during several performances at Merrimack and elsewhere.

Condolences may be sent to: The Cogen Family, 76 Pleasant Street, Ayer, Massachusetts, 01432.



## CALENDAR

Check out the entire campus happenings at [www.merrimack.edu](http://www.merrimack.edu)

### SEPTEMBER

7 - Fall Semester begins

7 - Opening Convocation at 11:00 a.m.

16 - *Forever Plaid* (Rogers Center)

24 - Tommy Makem (Rogers Center)

26 - SIYAHAMBA - Concert for African AIDS Relief – featuring The Archdiocese of Boston Black Catholic Choir (Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher)

26 - Merrimack Valley Philharmonic Orchestra Pops Concert (Rogers Center)

29 - Thagaste Symposium – Augustinian Solidarity with Africa (Cascia Hall) (see page 12 for more information)

### OCTOBER

1-2 - Homecoming Weekend

5 - Peace Among Israelis and Palestinians, Alan Solomont, Chairman and CEO, Solomont Bailis Ventures, and activist in Jewish Fund for Justice and Israel Policy Forum

6 - Seventh Annual Dennis McLaughlin Memorial Lecture, co-sponsored by Psychology Department, Dr. Anna Ornstein, Holocaust survivor and internationally renowned speaker and writes on self-psychology

7 - Capitol Steps (Rogers Center)

17 - Fred Moyer Piano Concert (Rogers Center)

17 - Bryant Clarke Piano Concert Afternoon Delight (Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher)

22 - Mystical Arts of Tibet (Rogers Center)

23 - A Cappella Night (Rogers Center)

26 - Last Lecture - Prof. Curtis Martin, Dept. of Political Science (Cascia Hall)

29 - Al Roker – presented by the Friends of Merrimack College (Rogers Center)

30 - Michael Cooper Family Program (Rogers Center)

### NOVEMBER

5-6 - Shenandoah Shakespeare Express (Rogers Center)

11-13 On-Stagers Fall Production (Rogers Center)

13 - The 1650th Birthday Party for St. Augustine

### DECEMBER

2 - Christmas Party at the State Room (formerly The Bay Tower Room)

4 - A Merry-Mack College Christmas (Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher)

### Don't Miss Al Roker at Merrimack

**D**on't forget to mark your calendars for the visit of Al Roker to Merrimack College on Friday, October 29, 2004. Roker, a six-time Emmy winner and beloved weatherman for the *Today Show*, will help to raise scholarship funds for Merrimack students. The event is sponsored by the Friends of Merrimack College and the Rogers Family Foundation. Tickets may be purchased through the Rogers Center for the Arts at 978-837-5355.



# Merrimack College

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*Photo by Kindra Clineff*



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